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June 12-25, 2014

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ON THE COVER
Margaret Cho brings her comedy to kick off our Pride Weekend, read the interview on page 36.
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All of Us, All Together: Moving Onward with Pride

By Andy Lien

Happy Pride!

What an amazing year it's been. We've seen so much happen in this past year in terms of rights and laws changing for the better of this rainbow community, on both state and federal levels. We're moving onward...from talking oh-so-much about politics to taking a breath of fresh air and looking around at the community, seeing who is here and what we're doing now that the dust has settled. As it turns out, we're doing a lot. Just as we were before all of the politics came to the forefront a few years ago, people in this community are living, working, enjoying arts and recreation, coupling up, having kids, and struggling...just as the rest of the larger society is. That is how this Pride Edition differs from the previous few that I've done in that this is when we've shifted back to showing what there is to celebrate about this community on a day-to-day basis, not with a heavy hand toward the politics, but with a lighter heart toward the community as a whole.

Looking through the issue, you see each section that I said we'd be covering on a quarterly basis starting this year. So many interests are special to this community, because this community is special, and I committed us to covering them more completely. We have historically covered topics of arts, politics, homes, weddings, food & dining, seniors, travel, bars, pets, vehicles, religion, relationships, and regular columns. Fitness, health, children & family, sports, and style were added to our usual editorial calendar to be highlighted four times a year, in addition to the Pride Edition in which we include it *all* and represent *everyone* in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied community. Look at the top of each page and I've hit the point home repeatedly that the topics are for *our* community, for anyone who reads *Lavender*: "Our Arts & Culture;" "Our Weddings;" "Our Children & Family;" "Our Health & Wellness."

All. Everyone. Ours.

This is what the future looks like, because it's what the now looks like. It's only a matter of this community becoming more visible as the rights and protections expand. What if this is what our usual issues looked like, rather than a special Pride Edition? They would be large and full of content that hits interests that are relevant in multiple ways to each reader on a regular, biweekly basis. We have a growing number of larger issues each year with the bounceback of the economy and the increased confidence that our community is worthy of targeting for advertising and that *Lavender* is the appropriate platform for reaching this community. *Lavender*, as a free publication, is committed to staying accessible to the members of the community it represents, whether an out and proud "veteran" of the community or someone still in the closet in a rural town. As such, our pages increase as our advertising dollars do; they stay in lockstep with each other so we stay in business. But what if there were this sense of community Pride all year long rather than just in June? What if what's in your hands right now could be the usual *Lavender*, with new and different people, places, and things highlighted that are specific to this community? Our community?

What you are holding in your hands is our future. These pages, these people. Our issues, our lives.

"What if" is happening. ■

With you, with thanks, with Pride,

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Love, When It Alteration Finds

By E.B. Boatner

Once again, at Pride I ask myself, of what should we be proud?

Sexual orientation and gender are, despite continuing protestations to the contrary, how we are born, neither praise- nor blameworthy. We can, like all our neighbors of whatever identification, be proud of living productive lives; taking, should we choose, spouses; having, should we choose, children.

I had thought that most criticisms come from the outside, the straight community. But reading Diane and Jacob Anderson-Minshall's *Queerly Beloved: A Love Story Across Genders* (see "Books"), I realized that not all queer folks are open to other queer folk they perceive as "not real," or "too different" from themselves.

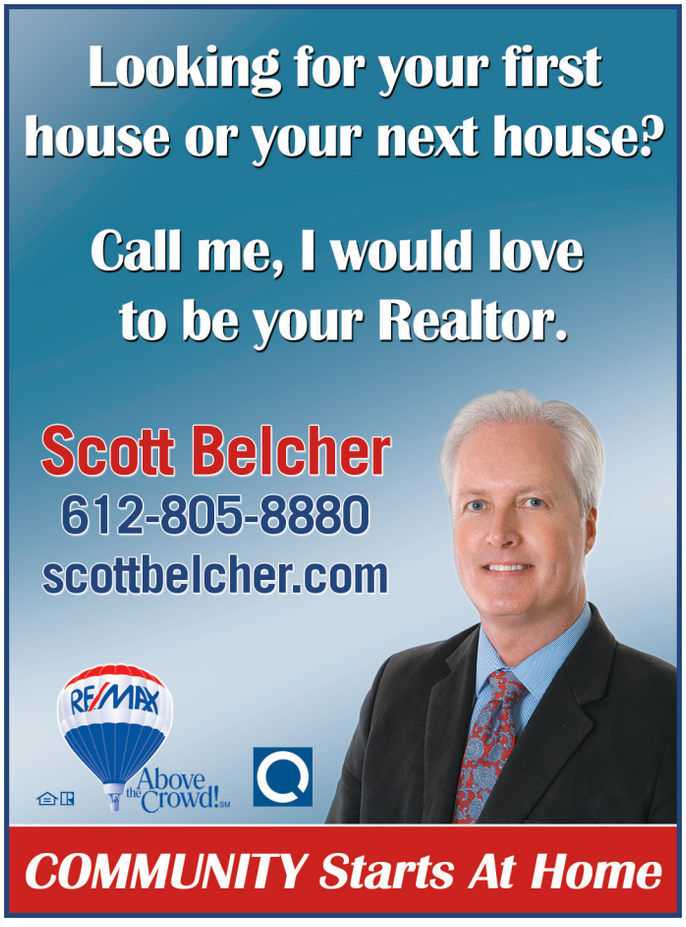
Queerly Beloved is a memoir of the Anderson-Minshalls' journey during the past eight years, after Diane's wife of fifteen years declared she was actually a man and wanted to transition. There are many facets to the book: Diane's excesses (or were they?) of emotions and needs, Jacob's fears for himself, and the overwhelming enormity of having one member of a dyad morph into someone altogether different and alien.

But for this piece, I'll mention the queer resistance that Diane often encountered. Did she still have lesbian creds? Should she keep her position as editor of a national lesbian magazine? (*Curve*) Diane was continuing on, loving the spouse she has loved now for twenty-three years, yet she was coming under fire from the very people that she most expected to be supportive.

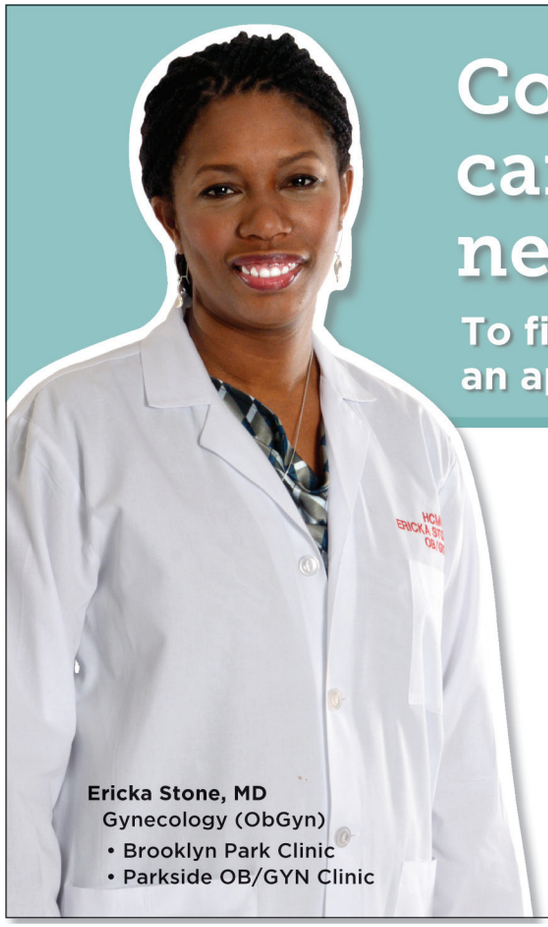
Jacob writes, "This double standard is offensive. We can't demand the freedom of self-identification for ourselves and then not allow other people that same right. Like everyone else, Diane has the right to choose her own identities and proclaim, 'This is who I am,' and be taken at her word.

Writing about his own male identification Jacob asks, "Did Geppetto still see the toy he'd carved after Pinocchio was made into a *real* boy? Or had he always seen the real boy hiding beneath Pinocchio's wooden features?"

This year, as we each realize and take pride in our own identities, let us also strive to feel equal pride in the unique identities of other queer selves, however different from our own they may be–hoping that they in turn, will show us the same respect. ■







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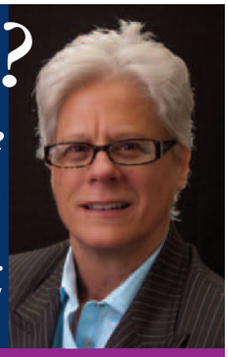
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MINNESOTA AIDS WALK

MAY 18, 2014


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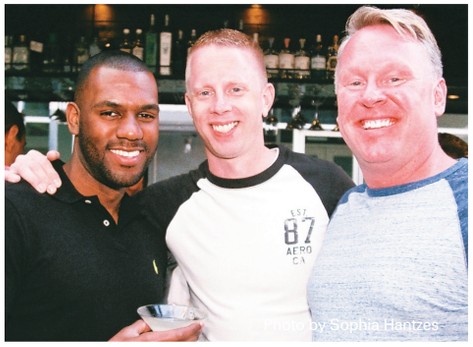




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BEAR WITH ME (WHILE I TELL YOU ABOUT…):

By Barry Leavitt

IML WELCOME HOME PARTY
June 14 • 9pm – 2am
eagleBOLTbar • 515 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis
June's Gear Night is extra special as the eagleBoltbar welcomes back Jason Little & Greg Menzel from IML and Bootblack Kai from IMBB. It's a night in gear celebrating the guys who represented Minnesota at IML. Stop by and offer your congratulations and welcome them home. Dress code enforced in the Eagle. The Bolt is open to everyone. Visit www.eagleboltbar.com for more information.

LAVENDER'S OUT AT THE MOVIES
Tuesday, June 17 • Doors 6:45pm • Movie 7:30pm
Heights Theatre • 3951 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights
Join us for Out at the Movies presentation of THE 10 YEAR PLAN, a new romantic comedy about two best friends who make a pact to be together if the are both still single in ten year's time. Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Redeem your ticket stub for 2 for 1 at Dairy Queen next to theatre. See the movie trailer at www.10yearplanmovie.com. Ticket sales benefit the Minneapolis Movie Bears. Purchase tickets at www.minneapolismoviebears.com.

BIG GAY SING
June 20-21 • 8pm
Ted Mann Concert Hall • 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis
"Camp it up" with the Chorus as they perform some of your most favorite songs – guaranteed to get you to sing along! You won't want to miss the highlight of Pride month – and with Miss Richfield 1981 as your host, an evening of wacky fun awaits! Come out and sing and you'll have a gay old time! "We are so delighted to work with Miss Richfield 1981," said Artistic Director Dr. Ben Riggs. "She's so busy traveling all around the country – especially in June (during Pride month), so it is truly special to have her join us. She also has not performed with us since 1999, so it is an even more exciting time for the Chorus and our audience who should expect a few surprises throughout the evening." This year's concert breaks with tradition and will be performed the weekend prior to Pride Festival. "We are excited about this change, getting on stage as we come in to Pride Week," said Executive Director Jeff Heine. "But don't worry; we'll still be in the Parade on Pride Weekend!" Tickets start at $25. Visit www.tcgmc.org for tickets and more information.

DRAGGED OUT'S PRIDE SHOW
June 20 • 9:45pm-2am
Town House Bar • 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul
Here is the perfect way to get a jumpstart on Pride festivities! Come celebrate with your favorite cast of Dragged Out and a few special guests. The regular cast includes Taiyo, Andre 1000, Ethan Prince, Alfonso Leon, Xavier, and their special guests include Vivienne Le Détruire, Nadi A'marena, Kamaree Williams, and Goldie Peacock who is coming all the way from New York. Your host for the evening is the one and only Miss Trish. Don't forget, light rail starts June 14, so now you have more ways to get to the Town House. Search "Dragged Out's Pride Show" on Facebook for more information.

TOWN HOUSE'S PRE-PRIDE PARTY
June 21 • 8:30pm-2am
Town House Bar • 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul
It's starting to get close to that time again! Mark your calendars for this year's pre-pride party! Past years have included impromptu drag show, Jell-O shots, karaoke, Elvis, fire spinners, etc. You never know what this year is going to bring! Shannon Blowtorch will be the special guest DJ for the night, and there will be some special guest performances! FREE pool & darts from 8:30-10:30pm, and Karaoke in the back bar at 10pm. As for food and drink, they'll be FREE Jell-O shots, drink specials and lots of delicious food to devour! Visit www.townhousebar.com for more information.

PRIDE BOAT CRUISE
June 22 • 5:30pm
Leaver from Bohemian Flats Park • 2150 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis
ICOM presents the Annual Pride Boat Cruise aboard the Mississippi Queen Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the dock. Your ticket includes a pre-cruise kick-off party and complimentary round trip bus transportation from the Saloon to the Bohemian Flats! The party starts at 3pm with the bus leaving promptly at 5pm. Visit www.impcourtmn.com/events for tickets and more information.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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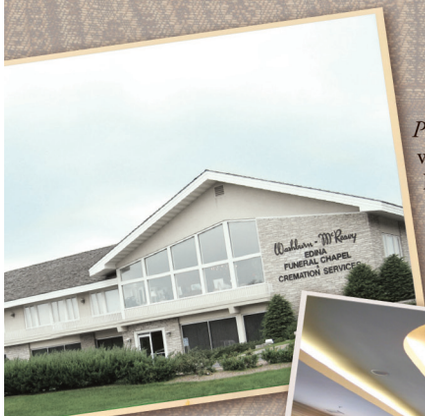
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J-PRIDE HAPPY HOUR
June 23 • 5:30-8:30pm
Mort's Deli • 525 Winnetka Ave. N., Golden Valley
Come celebrate the start of Pride Week with a fabulous J-PRIDE happy hour at Mort's Deli. Share a little nosh, a drink and some laughs with your favorite GLBT Jews + their friends + allies! Search "J-Pride Happy Hour" on Facebook for more information.

ANNUAL MFB PRIDE CONCERT IN THE PARK
Monday, June 23 • 7:30-9pm
Lake Harriet Band Shell • 4135 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy., Minneapolis
It's an annual rite of Pride, the Minnesota Freedom Band's Pride Concert, part of the Minneapolis Park and Rec's Music in the Parks Series! Free for the public! Make a picnic dinner or grill out at one of the many grills onsite. Come here "American Overture", music by Percy Grainger, and other great band works!

BLACK HEARTS BURLESQUE PRIDE
June 25 • Doors: 9:30pm Show: 10pm
Hell's Kitchen • 80 9th St. S., Minneapolis
With a theme of "We're All Going To Hell," you know this is going to be good. Join the cast of Black Hearts Burlesque and some of their fabulous friends for a sexy Pride party with more drag and burlesque than you can shake a rainbow flag at! They're proud to welcome Shea Couleé, an extraordinary drag artist from Chicago who's going to show you some serious #face! New York City gender-bender Goldie Peacock will make a debut appearance with the Black Hearts, Nudie Nubies champion and local leggy lovely Vivienne Le Détruire struts her stuff, and the HOT HOT HOT Hank Heat is ready to make you sweat! $10 cover. 21+. Search "We're All Going To Hell: Black Hearts Burlesque Pride" on Facebook for more information.

LAVENDER'S PRIDE THURSDAY
Twin Cities Pride Presents Margaret Cho
June 26 • Pride Thursday: 5:30-8pm • Margaret Cho: 8pm
Orchestra Hall • 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
Kick off the Twin Cities Pride Weekend with the Twin Cities biggest Happy Hour event, followed by a performance by comedienne Margaret Cho. Stop by for a FREE Lavender Pride Thursday Happy Hour featuring complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine and cocktail sampling, drink specials, and a chance to register to win great prizes. Afterward, Twin Cities Pride presents an evening of comedy by the incomparable Margaret Cho. What a fantastic way to start Twin Cities Pride Weekend. For tickets, visit www.tcpride.org.

GAY 90'S PRIDE WEEKEND
June 26-29
408 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis
The Gay 90's is like walking up to a buffet where there's so much to choose from, you're not sure if you can eat it all. Well, the Gay 90's has a buffet of Pride events you're sure to enjoy. One of the highlights of the weekend is the Miss City of the Lakes Pageant, and of course, they have the best Drag Show in the Midwest. Special guests include BeBe Zahara Benet and Asia O'Hare. As the Gay 90's likes to say, with six bars and multiple dance floors, size does matter. For a complete list of Pride events at Gay 90's, visit www.gay90s.com.

SCORCH FIREBALL 15
June 26-29
eagleBOLTbar • 515 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis
Since I'm only 29 years old (LOL), can it be I was only 14 when the first Scorch Fireball was held? Well, regardless of my age, one of the most popular Pride events is turning 15, and shows now signs of slowing down. Titled "Party under the big top," the highlight of the weekend is Saturday night, which includes Bear Night, and Andrew Christian models Murray Swanby and Cory Zwierzynski performing. For a complete list of eagleBOLTbar's Pride events, visit www.eagleboltbar.com.

FLIP PHONE PRIDE
June 26 • 9:30pm
Honey Mpls • 205 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
Flip Phone does Pride Beyoncé style with a celebration of Queen Bey, Pride and summer. Get ready for an evening of amazing jamz and visuals, Beyoncé tracks and other amazing artists, $4 drink special and taps, fun stuff, beautiful glances and sketchy corners, and late night performances by Belize Rodgers. $5 cover. Search "Flip Phone Pride" on Facebook for more information.

TRANSMISSION IN BERLIN II (PRIDE EDITION)
June 26 • 10pm
Hell's Kitchen • 80 9th St. S., Minneapolis
On New Year's Eve of last year Berlin's DJ Shannon Blowtorch and Transmission's Jake Rudh teamed up for the first time. There was something in the air that night. Something that both dance nights, Berlin and Transmission, experience on their own...but was brought to a completely new level when combined. It worked so well, they're at it again. Jake will doing a heavy '80s LGBT set (all videos) and Shannon will be doing her awesome mix of indie dance, riot girl, punk rock, nu disco & more...tag-teaming every half hour. Hell's Kitchen hit capacity within the first hour last time, and they're expecting another crowd ready to celebrate, so please arrive early. $6 cover. Visit www.hellskitcheninc.com/prideweek for more information.

LUSH FOOD BAR
June 27-28
990 Central Ave., Minneapolis
Lush Food Bar in NE Minneapolis hits it's 5th anniversary during Pride month, and their planning to celebrate with a hot, hot, hot Pride weekend. And the hottest of the nights is June 28, which features DJ Pornstar, Brent Corrigan, the face of Fleshjack, and the hottest male dancers from Vegas and LA! All I can say is WOOF and GRRR! For all of the LUSH Pride events, including presale of their Pride dog tags, visit www.lushfoodbar.com.

GROWN & SEXY PRIDE
June 27 • 9pm
First Avenue • 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis
Mark your calendars for this all-night dance party infused with incredible onstage performances. The talent is great, the music is amazing, and all are welcome! This year's event stars William from RuPaul's Drag Race Season 4, features Burlesque superstars The Luminous Pariah and Iva Handfull, and includes special performances by Suck It – Gag on the Drag, Dykes Do Drag, and The Vigilantease Collective. Of course, DJ Shannon Blowtorch will be providing the best beats all night. $15 cover. Search "Grown & Sexy Pride" on Facebook for more information.

SOUL FRIDAY PRIDE
June 28 • 9pm-2am
Hell's Kitchen • 80 9th St. S., Minneapolis
Soul Fridays, a monthly dance party created for queer women of color and friends, is hosting a Pride edition on Saturday of Pride Weekend. They'll be spinning the best in old school, R&B, old and new hip-hop, and more. One the decks will be Shannon Blowtorch, Lady L, and DJ Superbrush will be spinning some hot Latin sets. Lady L's Old School Power Hour will be 9-10pm, so come early. Hell's Kichen will be featuring food and drink specials 9pm-1am.

SALOON'S SUNDAY PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
June 29
The Saloon • 830 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
Few things are certainties in this world, but one certainty is every year the Saloon will throw a block party to end all block parties, and they're at it again. As part of their 7 Days of Pride Events, the Saloon's Sunday Block Party will feature performances by Natalia Kill, Alex Newell, Pop Rocks, and DJ Perez. But wait, there's even more. The block party will feature a 60 ft. Ferris Wheel and carnival theme. And if that was not enough, you can win $1,000 cold hard cash by entering their underwear contest. Join host, Camille Collins, for all the fun. For more information about The Saloon's Sunday Pride Block Party and all of their Pride events, visit www.saloonmn.com. ■

LAVENDER'S

PRIDE Thursday

Presented by Ketel One & Ameriprise

Twin Cities Pride Weekend kicks off with the Twin Cities' biggest happy hour event followed by a performance by Margaret Cho.

WHEN Thursday, June 26

TIME 5:30 - 8:00 PM

COST Free for Lavender PRIDE Thursday Happy Hour. Purchase tickets for Margaret Cho at www.tcpride.org

WHERE Orchestra Hall
1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

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MARGARET CHO

ON QUEER IDENTITIES IN COMEDY

By Shane Lueck

Fresh off her six-season stint on Lifetime's *Drop Dead Diva*, Margaret Cho has set her sights on new horizons. Lucky for Minnesotans, that means Cho will be bringing her trademark raunchy, socially relevant, and politically-charged comedy to Orchestra Hall, kicking off the official four-day Twin Cities Pride Celebration weekend (tickets at www.tcpride.org).

"It'll be pieces from my European tour that I just finished doing, some newer things, some music I've been working on. It'll be a lot of different stuff," Cho said, describing what the audience can expect. "And I'll have John Roberts opening for me, who I've toured with before. I'm really excited, it's going to be great. I was there not too long ago in St. Paul for *Wits*, the radio show that I really loved doing as well."

Cho, who will be experiencing Twin Cities Pride for the first time, is no stranger to pride celebrations. "I love them all!" Cho shouted. "I've been attending them for a really long time—since I was a kid. I can remember going to pride celebrations in San Francisco in the '70s. I've been to them all over the world and each one is great."

In an extremely nuanced and candid discussion, Cho, whose parents bought a gay bookstore after immigrating to America in the 1970s, highlights the ways in which being a queer woman of color gave her a voice that could face racism, homophobia, and other stereotypes head on.

"Especially for me—because I'm queer, I'm a woman of color," Cho notes, "somebody that is normally perceived as policing all the things that people say are racist or sexist or homophobic—you can go to a more outrageous place [in comedy] because of your identity."

As a Korean American woman who has recently been speaking more about her bisexual identity, Cho's personal commitment to GLBT causes stems from an intimate place. "Having a minority status within a minority status of the GLBT community is something that I like to focus on. Bisexuality is a minority within the already minority GLBT community. Adding another voice of bisexuality to the mix is great for me," Cho said. "I think that if you're queer, if you're a woman of color, and if you do comedy, it's like your voice is very important—your existence is political—and so I think it's a really great thing and what I've always tried to accomplish, and now that I'm older it's even more important."

Reiterating that she identifies as bisexual, Cho added that she is definitely involved with GLBT causes. "It's also about my upbringing," she said. "My childhood, and my upbringing within the queer political community in San Francisco, was a big deal for me and had a great impact on me. It's something that is in my heart and in my history and in my life, and it always will be."

As a woman of color who also identifies as a member of the GLBT community, Cho is undoubtedly a role model for countless people. But for Cho, the process of coming up with stand-up material comes from a personal journey without feeling the pressure of the external world. Claiming that her comedy and music is influenced by whatever is informing her life at the time, Cho said it's just whatever "snaps into her mind right then."

With her signature social critique (most often about race and sexuality), Cho's parents often make their way into her act. Cho, whose acts famously poke fun at her parents' lack of understanding due to cultural differences and generation gaps, chuckles as she says her parents understand gay and straight, but not bi. "That's very strange to them. That's sort of a newer thing in their mind," she says. "They get queerness and everything about that, they just don't get how someone could desire both genders."

But maybe Cho's parents are on to something. Cho, herself, said she finds it difficult to assign labels. "They are getting very specific, which is great. Everyone has to decide for themselves; either they want the label or not." she added. "It's more of a political decision. It's a preference. I don't know how much labels pertain to me—although they are important to my political life, I don't think about them too much."

With her time on *Drop Dead Diva* coming to a close with the end of season six this summer, Cho is quick to say that she is really proud of the show and loved her time spent working on the Lifetime series. "This is my last season there; the status of the show is kind of up in the air, but I'm going to go on," she says.

Like her character on *Drop Dead Diva*, Cho is always looking ahead for the next step. Lately, Cho has been working with Tina Fey to create a new comedy series, tentatively titled *Cabot College*. Having previously earned an Emmy nomination for her guest star work on Fey's *30 Rock*, the pair have reunited.

Of Fey and Matt Hubbard (*30 Rock*'s writer who will also be writing for *Cabot College*), Cho said, "They're just brilliant. It's powerful to work with people who have so much energy and are just so devoted to comedy, which is so important."

Cho will play the series regular role of Laura Thibault, the president of Cabot College who made the difficult decision to admit men into the previously all-women's school. She's further described as a divisive figure on campus who does her best to welcome the male freshmen, but is often irritated by their antics. But is this a topic that's right for a sitcom? Cho thinks it is.

"It's really a lot of different ideas about feminism and these communities that are just women, and what happens when we introduce young, beautiful boys into the picture," she said.

At the time of press, word was still out on whether or not Fox would pick up the new series, although critics proclaimed it as "in the running." ■

Opposite: Margaret Cho. Photo by Pixie Vision



Photo by Pixie Vision

PRIDE AWARD WINNERS

By Chris Nietupski

GRAND MARSHAL – Janeé Harteau

In 2012, Janeé Harteau was unanimously confirmed by the Minneapolis City Council to become the city's 52nd police chief. An appointment with even more significance as Chief Harteau is the first female and first openly gay Chief of Police in the city's history, having been out and active for many years and fighting discrimination within the police force starting back in the '90s.

Harteau has been featured in many local and national publications and has received numerous community accolades including *Minnesota Women's Press* "2013 Changemaker" award, *Twin Cities Business Journal* "2013 Diversity in Business Award" as well as being honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

Chief Harteau is an active member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). In addition, Chief Harteau serves as a member of the Board of Directors for YouthLink, a nonprofit that serves homeless youth, and CornerHouse, who provides resources for and assesses suspected child sexual abuse victims.

Chief Harteau holds a Bachelor's Degree in Police Science and a Master of Arts in Public Safety Administration; both from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. She is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute of Police in Boston and the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety's Police Staff and Command School where she was the Franklin Kreml Leadership Award winner.



Janée Harteau. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



R.T. Rybak. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

GRAND MARSHAL – R.T. Rybak

One of the most vocal public figures supporting marriage equality during 2013, R.T. Rybak remains a strong ally for the GLBT community despite stepping down as Mayor of Minneapolis. On August 1, 2013, when same-sex marriage became legal in Minnesota, Rybak began marrying same-sex couples at 12:01 a.m., eventually issuing 46 marriage licenses before his day was finished. He also married Minneapolis Police Chief Janeé Harteau and her partner of 25 years last August.

In September 2013, Rybak began a campaign touring neighboring states to promote marriage equality in Minnesota. His tourism campaign encouraged same-sex couples in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Colorado to wed in Minneapolis which not only helps Minneapolis tourism but also demonstrated the impact of marriage equality to those states.

Rybak's support of the GLBT community is not a new venture. Before entering politics, Rybak worked as a journalist, notably starting *Q Monthly*, a local GLBT magazine in the mid-1990s. He has been a strong ally and activist for the GLBT community and other underrepresented groups.

R.T. Rybak is now the Executive Director of Generation Next, an organization working to ensure that children of all socioeconomic backgrounds are well-prepared for success in the 21st century. Rybak holds a degree in political science from Boston College. He and his wife Megan have two children.



Spirit on Lake. Image courtesy of Spirit on Lake

COMMUNITY CHAMPION OF PRIDE – Spirit on Lake

"Capture the Spirit of Living Out" is the motto of Spirit on Lake, an affordable living property targeting GLBT seniors, located on Lake Street in Minneapolis. Members of the Spirit of the Lakes Church and GLBT Generations, a group founded by Barbara Satin, were instrumental in seeing the project come to life. In 2011, the nonprofit housing developer PRG, which had been included in Spirit on Lake from the beginning, entered into a partnership with Everwood Development to help create affordable rentals targeted at GLBT seniors.

Spirit on Lake opened officially in October 2013 offering affordable housing to residents in 46 apartment units, and serving as home to Quatrefoil Library, the oldest GLBT library in the Midwest.

CORPORATE CHAMPION OF PRIDE – U.S. Bank

U.S. Bank makes diversity and inclusion part of its guiding principles, as evidenced by scoring a 100% rating by the HRC Corporate Equality Index for the past seven years. The company has provided domestic partner benefits since 2000 and now allows employees who are in same-sex marriages the same benefits as other married employees, even if the employee resides in a state that does not have marriage equality. In addition, U.S. Bank also provides healthcare coverage for the unique needs of transgender employees, and provides specialized training for business lines to support those who are transitioning.

U.S. Bank has a Diversity Leadership council which is equipping employees with the skills needed to work with diverse employees. This council was influential in the creation of Business Resource Groups, of which Spectrum Twin Cities is a member. Spectrum's mission is to promote understanding that diversity and inclusion fosters a culture in which employees and clients feel valued, respected, trusted and heard; and that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and allied community is a part of that diversity. The Chairman, President and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40







Photo by Sophia Hantzes

CEO of U.S. Bank, Richard Davis, was the guest speaker at the first Spectrum kickoff event.

In 2012, U.S. Bank joined Greater Twin Cities United Way in its inaugural drive to raise funds for the Arise Project. U.S. Bank's leadership team was influential in helping raise awareness and providing volunteer support to help reduce homelessness among GLBT youth.

LIFETIME CHAMPION OF PRIDE – Harvey Zuckman

Harvey Zuckman's remarkable humanitarianism most notably dates back to the creation of the Minnesota Freedom Band in 1983, recognized as one of the first GLBT bands in the United States. Harvey was also a major contributor to the establishment of the Lesbian and Gay Band Association along with six other GLBT Bands in the early '80s. Both organizations celebrated their 30-year anniversaries in 2013.

Apart from his contributions to GLBT music, Harvey is the founder of First Tech, the first Apple retailer in the US which recently closed in Uptown. He has also volunteered countless hours of his time towards local causes including the AIDS Walk, Red Ribbon Ride, Quorum, Inter-faith Community, and other nonprofit organizations. Harvey and his husband Phil were actively involved with the Vote No Campaign as well as Marry Me Campaign.

According to his nominator, Harvey has served as both a role model and an adviser as he stepped into a new role as Artistic Director of the Minnesota Freedom Band, providing the appropriate guidance to "lead the band in its new artistic direction." ■



Harvey Zuckman. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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TWIN CITIES PRIDE FEATURED VOLUNTEER: LISA ANDERSON-GABER

By Chris Nietupski



Lisa Anderson-Gaber. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

The success of the Twin Cities Pride Festival and events throughout the year is almost entirely contingent on the generosity and commitment of its over 30 year-round and 300 festival volunteers. Here is a look at one individual who's been dedicated to the mission for a decade.

GET TO KNOW LISA ANDERSON-GABER

How did you start volunteering with Pride?

I started volunteering for Pride in 2005 after learning about their need for volunteers through a coworker. I joined the Pride team as the Entertainment Manager which is a post I held until 2010 when I was voted onto the Board of Directors.

What made you choose Pride?

I was at a point in my journey where I wanted to give back to my community, meet people, and take on new challenges. Pride appealed to me the most because I had attended my first Pride a few years earlier and the magnitude and breadth of diversity was overwhelming. I knew I wanted to be part of the team that was able to create this amazing experience for so many.

Describe your current role with Pride.

I am the Vice-Chair on the Board of Directors. Outside the standard duties of being a Board Member, I am heavily involved in supporting the Governance function, working to identify and enact policies and resolutions that continue to strengthen the foundation of our organization. During Pride weekend, I am the un-official weather guru [I am a StormSpotter and I volunteer as StormSpotter Trainer for the NWS] and part of the team that responds to any large scale emergencies.

What is it about Pride that you think should encourage others to get involved?

Pride is a family! Whether someone volunteers for a shift Pride weekend, works on a special project, or decides to be an über-year-round-volunteer, they become part of a huge extended family that you can always come back to and feel a part of. Volunteers come to Pride for a variety of reasons like giving back, learning new skills, or wanting to leave a legacy, but they stay because the passion, energy, and camaraderie of all involved is contagious. I like to tell people, six friends in my wedding party were are all lifelong friends I've made volunteering for Pride.

An inspirational quote that guides you?

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

Volunteering with Twin Cities Pride offers a great way to meet others and give back to your community. Opportunities are available through Board positions, year-round staff, and event positions. Individuals interested in volunteering should logon to www.tcpride.org and click on the "Volunteer" link for more information. ■

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Creative Kidstuff Lunchtime Concert Series
Weds, June 18 - Aug 20; 10-11 a.m.

West End Health, Fitness & Safety Expo
Thursday, July 10; 5-8 p.m.

West End Sidewalk Sale
Fri-Sun, July 18-20

Back to School Weekend & Outdoor Movie Night
Fri-Sun, August 15-17
(Movie August 16 at dusk)

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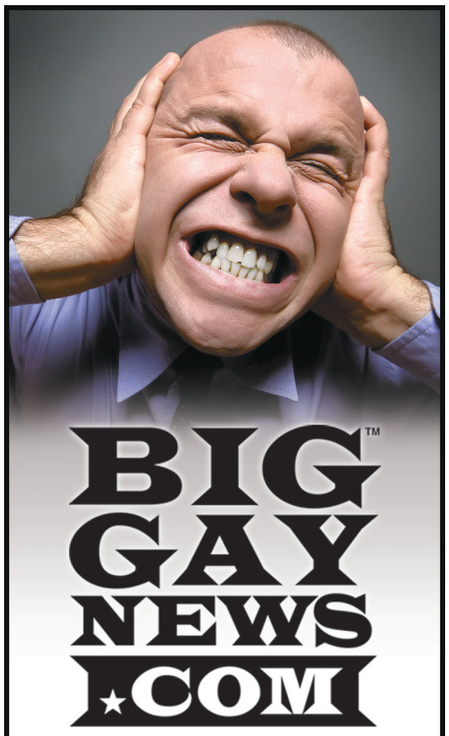
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SAME-SEX WEDDINGS IN THE PARK

By Chris Nietupski

2013 Pride Wedding Show and Tent. Photo by HM Photography LLC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46



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2013 Pride Wedding Show and Tent. Photo by HM Photography LLC

Two years ago, the color orange dominated the 40th Annual Twin Cities Pride Festival as tension and momentum mounted during the build up to the "Vote No" campaign. Then euphoria rained down during festival 41 as Pride goers celebrated the passing of the same-sex marriage bill that was just a month old. August 1, 2013 came and same-sex couples rushed to the courthouse and to the altar from Minnesota and beyond. And now?

The 42nd installment of the Pride Festival will showcase the progress in the most visual way – with weddings held next to the formal gardens and the lake at Loring Park as part of the weekend full of GLBT events.

"There was immediate interest and excitement around hosting actual weddings since the bill passed," said Dot Belstler, Executive Director of Twin Cities Pride. "We're proud of the role Pride and its thousands of supporters have played in making this legally possible."

Couples that signed up for the "Get Married at Pride" package will receive: an officiant, onsite coordinator service, a rehearsal, a photographer, access to a changing room, an hour in the wedding tent that will accommodate 50 guests and the wedding party set adjacent to the picturesque views of Loring Park's gardens, and a Car2Go "Getaway" car to ride off in after the ceremony.

Julie Lyford, owner of the event planning company Fabulous Functions, put together the package and will oversee the weddings.

"We've had commitment ceremonies at Pride in the past," Lyford explained. "However, we're obviously taking it to a new level and are thrilled that couples have chosen to share this extra special day in their lives during such a momentous festival like Pride."

With over 12 years of experience coordinating weddings, helping many GLBT couples marry along the way, she's noticing a trend developing after the rush to the altar last August.

"After the initial excitement last year, we're noticing a new type of couple approach us. One that is typically older and in a committed relationship for years on end, now looking to formally tie the knot."

Lyford notes that the weddings that will occur during Pride fit this mold, with couples that have been together for 10 to 20 years.

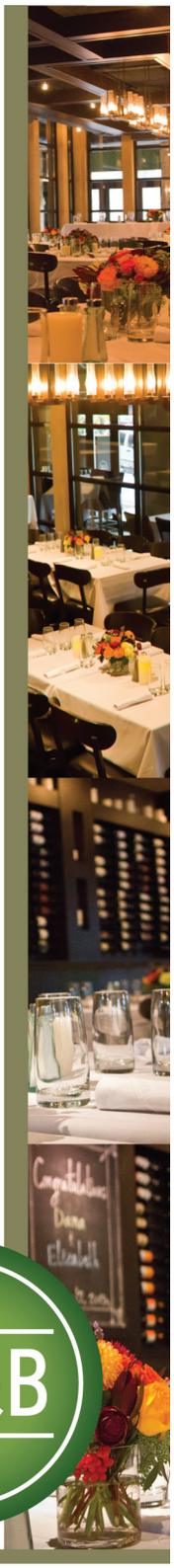
With the intimate setting, Pride Festival goers may catch only a glimpse of the happily married couples after the ceremony; however, the fun doesn't stop at the weddings themselves. Over 30 vendors with wedding-related booths will be on hand providing resources for same-sex couples.

Stop by the booths during Pride Festival hours:

Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday, June 29, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. ■

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The Beat Goes On

Grant Allows Pride to Showcase Top Musical Acts Free to Public

By John Nietupski



Ladyboi. Photo courtesy of Twin Cities Pride



Thelma Houston. Photo courtesy of Twin Cities Pride

Summer and outdoor music experiences go hand in hand in Minnesota. The Twin Cities Pride Festival is no different. And now, thanks to a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Festival is rolling out its strongest list of talent, yet.

"The purpose of the grant is to encourage Minnesotans to experience art through festivals," said Dot Beltsler, Executive Director of Pride. "Thanks to the Minnesota State Arts Board for supplementing the fees normally charged by top musical talent so that we can put on an affordable event for a huge group of engaged and enthusiastic fans!"

In total, over 80 local and regional artists will perform on four stages throughout the Pride weekend, with the majority of acts performing at no cost to the public.

Here is a brief look at some of the headliners on each stage. Start times vary by stage. For a full schedule of events, visit www.tcpride.org or download the mobile app TCPride.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



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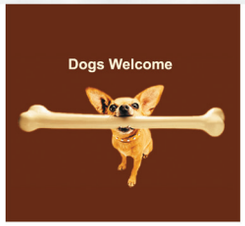
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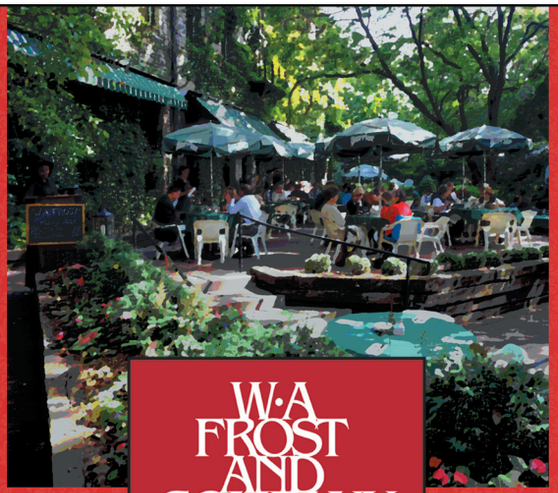








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Steve Grand. Photo courtesy of Twin Cities Pride

THE LORING STAGE

The main stage at Pride plays host to popular acts with widespread appeal. On Saturday you'll find favorites June Bug, Keri Noble, Candy Shop, and Mayda. Roxxy Hall, Bomba de Luz, K. Raydio, Erin Schwab and Metro Jam, and Boogie Wonderland round out Sunday afternoon.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE STAGE

The Power to the People stage is a multicultural experience featuring spoken word, hip hop, and rap. Michelle Be Mix kicks off the stage and will continue as emcee for the rest of the action. Among the favorites, local trans-community organizer, activist, and hip hop artist Heidi Barton Stink is a highlight of Saturday's action while Sonic Rain closes the show on Sunday.

THE STONEWALL STAGE

Local and regional flavor take over this drag extravaganza emcee'd throughout and headlined Sunday by drag queen glam rock star, Helen Back. Drag Queen Peaches closes out the Saturday show, and along the way, special performances by the AmaZING Dragons and the Des Moines Drag Troupe. And back by popular demand, there will be the drag kings of Dragged Out and the ukulele and singing of Taiyo and Friends.

THE RAINBOW STAGE

The Rainbow Stage, up close and personal, has traditionally hosted small groups and solo singer songwriters. Many favorites will be back again this year along with well-known up and coming acts like the glam spin on the rock 'n' blues sound of Pennyroyal and the entertainment of singer LADYBOI performing Saturday afternoon. Stop by again for the punk sounds of Stoked Beyond Boredom, headlining Sunday.

PRIDE IN CONCERT

The action really heats up with Pride in Concert, a ticketed 18-and-older event on Saturday night at the Loring Stage. An affordable $10 advance ticket gets you in to see rising pop star **Betty Who** ("Somebody Loves You"), gay country singer and YouTube heartthrob **Steve Grand** ("All-American Boy"), Pop/Motown/Disco and R&B music icon **Thelma Houston** ("Don't Leave Me This Way"), and legendary dance and R&B diva **Thea Austin** ("Rhythm is a Dancer"). Daytime myTalk107.1 co-host **Bradley Traynor** will serve as emcee for the evening, which culminates with a fireworks display set to the beats of popular House music DJ/Producer **Rich B.** ■



Betty Who. Photo courtesy of Twin Cities Pride

General Admission and special $75 VIP tickets are available at www.tcpride.org.

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be available at the Loring, Stonewall, and Power to the People Stages.

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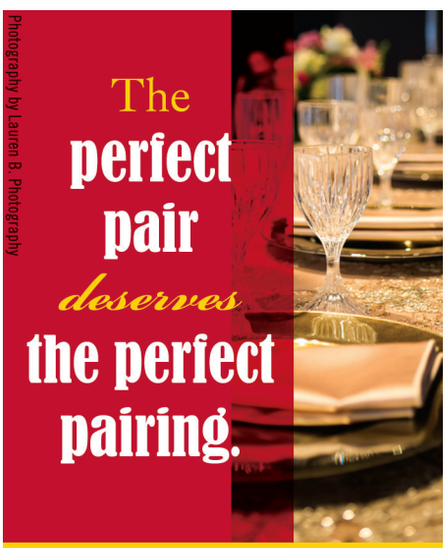
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ATHLETIC PROWESS ON DISPLAY AT PRIDE

By Chris Nietupski

Be sure to check out the following athletic events at the 42nd Annual Pride Festival!

Men's Volleyball Tournament
Pride Sports Field: Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Men's 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
Full Court: Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Studs vs Femmes Basketball Tournament
Full Court: Sunday 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

USTA Tennis Lessons for Kids
Half Basketball Court: Saturday, June 28, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Full Basketball Court: Sunday, June 29, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Men's Lacrosse Exhibition, Men's & Women's Rugby Exhibitions
Pride Sports Field: Sunday afternoon

Don't want to just watch sports? Here's your chance to participate!
Twin Cities Pride Rainbow Run
Show your Pride by taking part in the Twin Cities Pride Rainbow Run on Sunday, June 29! Starting at Boom Island and ending near Loring Park, the route takes runners along Hennepin Avenue as spectators begin to gather for the annual Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade. Presented by General Mills with support from St. Jude Medical and Anderson Race Management. The course is on city streets. Participants must maintain a minimum 16:00 minute per mile pace. The route must be cleared by 10:30 a.m. for the Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade. For more information, go to www.tcpride.org.

Race Day registration opens at 8:30 a.m. at the Boom Island Park Pavilion.

RACE FEES
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$35: June 1-26
$40: Race Day









2013 Pride sports, including Studs vs. Femmes Basketball and Men's Volleyball.
Photos by Sophia Hantzes



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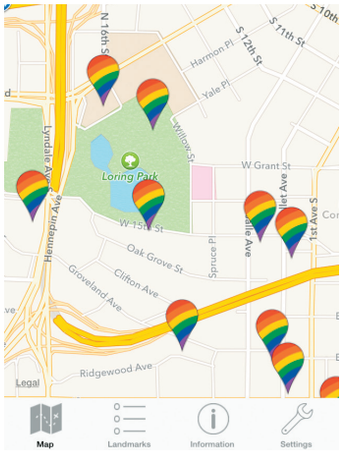
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New App Allows You to Walk Around the Twin Cities in the Historical Footsteps of YesterQueer

By Chris Nietupski







Taken as his personal collection was on the move to Elmer L. Andersen Library in the early 2000s, this photo shows Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, a man who is responsible for preserving LGBTQ history in Minnesota



It's no secret that the Twin Cities has cultivated leaders in GLBT advocacy for years. However, as progress continues, the history of those incremental steps that brought us to today is endangered.

Now, you can figuratively and literally walk those steps by downloading the YesterQueer Twin Cities app. The pilot mapping application seeks to document GLBT history, map that history onto the contemporary Twin Cities, and make the map accessible to the public.

The app contains locations and descriptions of over 100 historical points in Twin Cities GLBT history such as the location where Michael McConnell and Jack Baker applied for the first same-sex marriage license in 1970, a social club on Hennepin offering a safe haven for queer youth in the late '60s, and the location where a bookstore owner stood his ground to open a gay bookstore location on Nicollet in the '80s.

The app came to fruition through the support from the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota and Twin Cities Pride. YesterQueer is a collaborative effort shared by Stewart Van Cleve, author of *Land of 10,000 Loves: A History of Minnesota* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012) and Kerem San, founder of AppyNerds Mobile App Studio.

"The history exists, it's out there if you look for it," said San. "But we wanted to match history with technology to allow people to learn in the palm of their hand and contribute and collaborate all at the same time."

And its creators hope that the app is never "complete" and will grow based on the shared memories of others.

"We're not creating a traditional map that doesn't change," said Van Cleve. "Instead, we're hoping to foster a map-based dialogue that allows new memories, which might otherwise be forgotten, to become documented places in our community's history."

To share a memory or an image of GLBT history, send an email to yesterqueer.tc@appynerds.com with a brief description of your memory, and the location and any additional images, if available. You will be contacted if further information is needed.

The launch of the app just prior to the 42nd Annual Twin Cities Pride Festival is no coincidence.

"The Pride Festival appeals to a young, socially conscious crowd," said Dot Belstler, Executive Director for Twin Cities Pride. "And what better way to showcase the GLBTQ progress and great work that the Tretter Collection and Stewart have been doing for years than in an app that links history with the forefront of technology?"

Android and iPhone users can download the app in their respective marketplaces by simply searching "YesterQueer" and installing it for free. Festival goers are also encouraged to download the TCPride standalone app that serves as a companion guide for all events during the festival and beyond.

For a more traditional look at GLBT history in the Twin Cities, festival goers are encouraged to stop into the Tretter History Pavilion where artifacts and educational resources will be on display all weekend. ■

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AARP MINNESOTA AND BOOMERTOWN

WELCOME SENIORS INTO THE SHADE AT PRIDE

By Chris Nietupski

Anyone who says GLBT seniors are in the autumn of their lives needs to get on down to BoomerTown this summer where the action is heating up in the shade.

Now in its second year of existence, BoomerTown was created as a viable option for older individuals who saw Pride as festivities only catering to young people. Located in the accessible and shady area of Loring Park near MCTC Plaza, Pride will play host to a number of GLBT senior-centric resources.

The area is the brainchild of Harry Hartigan, a PrimeTimers volunteer and activist for diversity and inclusion for seniors.

"It is true that much of the festival caters to young people," said Dot Belstler, Executive Director of TC Pride. "However, through Harry's vision, we've created BoomerTown which offers a more relaxing space and pace for GLBTQ seniors with resources catered to their needs."

Those resources include information on volunteer opportunities, healthcare, and more. And AARP Minnesota will again be the official sponsor of this year's version of BoomerTown.

"We all see the demographics indicating that seniors are the fastest growing segment of our population," said TC Pride Board Chair Scott Feldman. "So we are thrilled to continue our work with such a logical partner in AARP who has been advocating and advancing the opportunities for seniors



BoomerTown at the 2013 Pride Festival. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

The list of participants at BoomerTown will include:

Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly
Prime Timers – MSP Chapter
Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging
Metro Meals on Wheels
Ebenezer – Minneapolis Campus
Volunteers of America
AARP Minnesota

Like most of the festivities at the 42nd Annual Pride Festival, admission to BoomerTown is free.
Hours run concurrent to the festival:
Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday, June 29, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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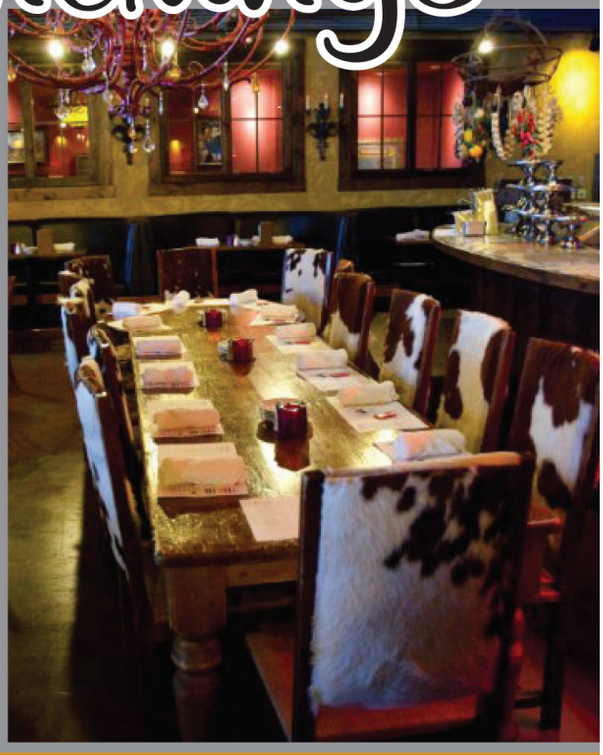




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THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AT 50

CELEBRATING THE EFFORT TO KILL IT OFF

By Phil Duran

The early 1960s were a time of powerful social ferment, as Americans increasingly demanded an end to racial discrimination in a wide range of everyday activities, throughout the country. President John F. Kennedy advocated for federal laws to bar such discrimination, and in the wake of his assassination in 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson heavily lobbied his former Senate colleagues and other legislators to make it happen. Happily for GLBT Americans, a group of officials hatched a plan to defeat the effort.

These members of Congress, drawn heavily from Southern states and—ironically in light of current politics—mostly Democratic, were horrified at the prospect of a federal bill that would bar discrimination on the basis of race. Determined to derail the bill, this group devised a scheme to make the proposal so unpalatable as to pick off enough supporters' votes and thereby guarantee its failure.

The plan? Expand the bill to also prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

The plotters duly introduced an amendment to the pending legislation that would also bar sex discrimination, confident that enough of their colleagues would recoil from such a monstrous step that the whole bill would go down in flames.

To their chagrin, the effort backfired significantly: the amendment was adopted and the bill containing it was also approved, and sent to President Johnson, who signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law on July 2 of that year. In the half-century since, federal law barred discrimination on the

IN THE FIRST ROUGHLY 15 YEARS AFTER THE ACT'S PASSAGE, SEVERAL COMPLAINTS WERE FILED IN FEDERAL COURTS BY LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, OR TRANSGENDER PLAINTIFFS, CLAIMING THAT THEY WERE FIRED OR OTHERWISE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY.

bases of race, national origin, color, religion—and sex.

And today, the GLBT community celebrates not only the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of this landmark legislation, but in particular, the ill-fated attempt to prevent it altogether.

This seems counter-intuitive at best. The Act does not include sexual orientation or gender identity, the two characteristics of critical importance to the GLBT community. And the Act has protected people in our community from racial, religious, and other forms of discrimination. So why do we care?

We care, because the effort to prevent the Act's passage turns out to be key in securing GLBT Americans' protection from discrimination.

In the first roughly 15 years after the Act's passage, several complaints were filed in federal courts by lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender plaintiffs, claiming that they were fired or otherwise discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Routinely, the courts' response was to tut-tut about the inappropriateness of such discrimination, but to conclude that, unfortunately, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not prohibit it, and thus the plaintiffs' cases failed. Efforts to further amend the Act to include sexual orientation began in the mid-1970s, and have yet to be successful; the more limited Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which also includes gender identity, has been stalled in Congress for over twenty years.

But in 1989, the US Supreme Court issued what turned out to be a pivotal ruling in not only Civil Rights Act jurisprudence, but in the GLBT community's long struggle for protection from employment and other forms of discrimination. In a case called *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*, the Court held that because the Act bars sex discrimination in employment, the Act prohibits employers from trying to police employees' gender roles. In that case, Price Waterhouse declined to promote Ann Hopkins, and told her that she would be more successful if she were to act and present in a more feminine manner, and to be "less mannish." Hopkins' victory over Price Waterhouse led to the emergence of a whole new way to articulate sex-discrimination claims: employees could now allege that their employers discriminated against them by subjecting them to "sex-stereotyping" — that they didn't fit the "norms" of what is expected of a "real" man or a "real" woman.

In the wake of *Price Waterhouse*, the landscape facing GLBT people experiencing discrimination suddenly shifted. Transgender workers in particular began finding success when they filed claims asserting that they lost their jobs, or were denied jobs, because their employers didn't feel they fit the "norm" of what it meant to be a man or a woman. "Sex-stereotyping" claims began appearing more frequently in the courts and at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the federal agency charged with enforcing the employment provisions of the Act, known as Title VII. And those claims—alleging a form of sex discrimination—were succeeding, providing increased protections for transgender Americans in the workplace.

By the early years of the 21st century, the analysis evolved further. In a case called *Schroer v. Billington*, a federal court concluded that it was not necessary to invoke the concept of "sex-stereotyping" in order to rule in favor of a complaining party. Where a transgender person was denied employment because of their transgender status, the court determined, this was simply sex discrimination, period. The judge reasoned that just as Title VII's prohibition on religious discrimination would bar discrimination against an employee because they changed their religious identity, the prohibition on sex discrimination would bar discrimination against an employee because they changed their sex. And in 2012, the EEOC adopted this analysis as its own, in a case called *Macy v. Holder*. Today, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars discrimination against transgender people as a form of sex discrimination—a form of discrimination included in the Act only as an effort to defeat it altogether.

This broad interpretation of the term "sex" is not limited only to employment matters. Just this spring, the US Department of Education confirmed that the same interpretation of "sex" applies also to what is known as Title IX, which bars sex discrimination in education. Transgender students now enjoy clearer protections under federal law. The analysis also has found its way into constitutional law: in a case known as *Glenn v. Brumby*, a federal appellate court held that a fired transgender worker's discrimination complaint against the state of Georgia triggered heightened review under the constitution's "equal protection" doctrine. Applying more exacting review of government actions targeting transgender people makes it more likely that such actions will be found unconstitutional—another important victory for transgender Americans.

So while this may be great news for transgender people, what about the Ls, Gs, and Bs? Are they left out? The trend lines suggest not. First, lesbian, gay, and bisexual people have already been able to file "sex-stereotyping" claims in some cases. For example, here in Minnesota, a student experienced serious harassment, related to his sexual orientation, in the Duluth school he attended in the early 1990s. He filed suit in federal court against the district for conduct, which it refused to stop, occurring both before and after 1993, when sexual orientation (including gender identity) was added to the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The school district sought to have the pre-1993 complaints dismissed, because sexual orientation was not in the state's nondiscrimination law at that time. The federal judge refused to dismiss those complaints, reasoning (20 years before the Department of Education caught up) that the "sex" language in Title IX prohibited discrimination in the form of harassing the student for not seeming to be a "real man."

More recently, EEOC has begun taking a different sort of complaint. Two with similar fact patterns directly suggest that the evolution of the understanding of "sex" discrimination continues. The basic story is this: an employee at a workplace subject to Title VII marries an individual of the same sex. When the employer learns of this, the employee is subjected to harassment or even fired. The employee files a complaint of sex discrimination. The fact EEOC is accepting such complaints suggest that the agency may be open to considering either (a) that the harassment/firing reflects the employer's judgment that a man, for example, who marries another man is not a "real man," because a "real man" would marry a woman, or (b) that the harassment/firing is directly related to the sex of the employee's spouse; had the employee married a person of the other sex, they would not have been fired, thus the response is ultimately based on "sex." Either way, it is possible that lesbian, gay, and bisexual Americans may find additional protection under the law because our society's concept of "sex discrimination" continues to evolve.

Ironically, this evolution could well move more quickly than progress toward passage of ENDA in our deeply-divided Congress. Because agency interpretations could be overturned by courts or Congress, continuing efforts to expressly include sexual orientation and gender identity in federal law are worthwhile. But in the meantime, on this fiftieth anniversary of this critical legislation, language that was included specifically to derail the bill has turned out to be critical to vindicating the rights of people barely on the legislative radar in 1964. This is indeed worth celebrating. ■



Photo by Aaron Davidson

THE BEER DABBLER AT PRIDE
2014 PAIRINGS

By Joy Summers

Summer is in full swing and we are ready to hit this year's Pride with the force of a thousand burning suns. Nothing goes better with bright sunshine, the freedom to marry, and a brilliantly colored flag like an icy cold craft brew. Just as they did last year, The Beer Dabbler has again curated a ginormous list of perfectly paired brewers and food trucks. It seems like every other day there's a new brewery launching and colorful food wagon parked at a downtown curb. No need to break out the textbooks to get them all straight, we have your entire guide for picking which ones you won't be able to miss.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

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A LA PLANCHA
It's hard not to fall in love with their luchadore at first sight. A la Plancha delivers big flavors directly to your mouth. With potatoes bravas and Cuban sliders, you'll be hard pressed to walk away from these guys without a smile plastered across your face.
With:
INDEED BREWING COMPANY
Beloved craft brew in cans bring you drinkable art in easy-to-carry containers. You can hardly call it summer without sampling their refreshing Shenanigans.

ANCHOR FISH & CHIPS
Just wait until you get a load of the fish they serve up here. A cod filet the size of a baby is fried to crispy perfection. When dressed with a little malt vinegar, you won't find a better bite of the across-the-pond favorite.
With:
BAD WEATHER BREWING COMPANY
Unexpected, untethered beer is the promise. These guys don't follow the traditional road and instead are forging ahead down their own path to delicious beer.

BERNATELLO'S
Everybody loves a pizza pie and Bernatello's serves theirs straight from the truck window. It's ooey gooey, fresh and ready.
With:
FYTENBURG FAMILY BREWERIES
European-style ales and lagers made in the former horse stables of St. Paul's Schmidt Brewery.

CAJUN 2 GEAUX
Is it hot enough for ya? Probably not, if you don't have a mouth full of this fiery fare. The jambalaya is no joke and a pile of beignets buried in powdered sugar is the pinnacle of great fried food.
With:
FINNEGANS
This brewery does more than make good beer; they also do good for the community. They donate 100% of their profits to alleviate hunger locally. This year they even started a reverse food truck to help collect donations for our hungry neighbors.

CAVE CAFÉ
The Cave Café specializes in fusion fare with a Caribbean bent. Chef Teddy's zesty dishes might have you reaching for a little something to cool things down.
With:
LUCID BREWING
The Minnetonka-based brewery promotes "clarity of thinking and quality of drinking." Usually, we get foggy after a few frosty brews, but this promise might be worth exploring.

CHEF SHACK
The original ladies of the food truck biz bring it with all their chefly powers. Who can live without their bacon-stuffed brats, black bean tacos, or magical mini donuts these days?
With:
SUMMIT BREWING COMPANY
Not only did they introduce cans, but this St. Paul classic brewery—our original craft beer makers—continues to lead the pack with their newest offerings. Who could dream up a better pairing?

GASTROTRUCK
Other businesses just say they're "chef driven," this truck actually is. You won't want to miss their vegetarian burgers, or the chicken wild rice burgers, or the pork belly, for that matter. You should probably mark this spot with an extra big star.
With:
FLAT EARTH BREWING COMPANY
St. Paul's Flat Earth has crafted brews across the color spectrum, from their first brewed Belgian-style pale ale to the mocha-colored Cygnus x1 Porter.

GOGI BROS
These guys are among the latest crop of trucks, but what sets them apart is their fantastic food. Tender, subtly sweet bulgogi (Korean barbecue) is paired with their tart-hot kimchee for flavor heaven.
With:
SURLY BREWING
No one represents at a party like the masters of brew at Surly. Pit a Bender against those Kogi flavors and you're going to find yourself in possession of one happy tummy.

HIBACHI DARUMA
This brightly colored truck brings the flavor with teriyaki chicken and quick-cooked shrimp served with their fried rice.
With:
DAY BLOCK BREWING COMPANY
This downtown Minneapolis brew pub keeps an ever-rotating list of in-house crafted beers. One can only hope they bring a little of that honey-kissed Amber ale to pair with the Japanese grilled fare.

HOLA AREPA
It's your chance to see the Hola kids out in the wild! The truck has been faithfully parked beside their hopping new eatery in South Minneapolis, patiently awaiting a return to the streets and this is it. Soft corn cakes crammed with the very best meats, cheeses, and house-made sauces. You know you want some.
With:
TIN WHISKERS BREWING CO
The only neighborhood hotter than South Minneapolis is St. Paul's Lowertown, which is exactly where you'll find Tin Whiskers taproom. Their Flipswitch IPA with citrus scents and thread of malt would pair beautifully with an arepa.

HOT INDIAN FOODS
If you haven't read about Hot Indian's Chef Janene Holig you probably should (Lavender Issue 495). She and Amol Dixit are bringing the spicy Indian best with Indurritos, and Hot Indian's fries that are a must-eat for any street food lover.
With:
BAUHAUS BREW LABS
These cans scream summer. (Just pop one and listen if you don't believe me.) Besides, how do you not love a brew named Wonderhouse?

JAKE'S STREET GRILL
This truck is part of the trend of restaurants taking to the streets with mobile eats. Jake's is known for their sliders, but also serve salads stuffed inside pita bread for those looking for a little bit of a lighter option.
With:
LIFT BRIDGE BREWERY
Lift Bridge continues to churn out the brews from outside of Stillwater. You'll want to sample their sunny-tasting summer beauty, Farm Girl Saison.

KABOMELETTE
It's not just an omelette—oh how pedestrian. Oh no, this comes with a side of KABLAM. Hence: the Kabomelette. It's not just for breakfast any more.
With:
THIRD STREET BREWHOUSE
From the golden-hued Three Way, the roasted-caramel-colored Lost Trout, to the Rise to the Top cream ale, Third Street Brewhouse gives us a variety of beers created for pairing with great food.



Photos by Aaron Davidson

CONTINUED ON PAGE 64

Hibiscus Pride

Tapping June 3rd @ 6 pm

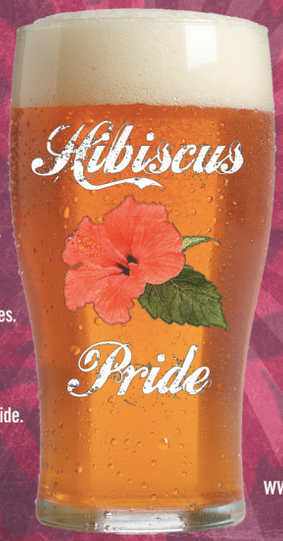
Join Head Brewer Larry Skellenger and Rock Bottom Brewery as we tap HIBISCUS PRIDE to celebrate the Month of Pride.

This unique Spring beer is a refreshing light beer made with hibiscus flowers and celebrates the diversity of beer styles.

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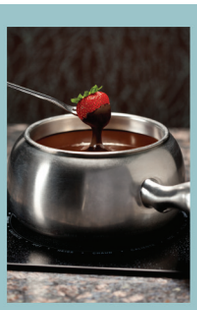
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Photos by Aaron Davidson

NATEDOGS

Natedogs peddles the best hotdogs you'll find on the streets. There. I said it. Just sample one of those Pastures A Plenty porkers yourself, dressed in Nate's perfect honey mustard and a little tangy slaw, and you'll be a convert, too.

With:

SOCIABLE CIDER WERKS

The local beverage world is abuzz about this spot serving up all kinds of great sippers that are all made without gluten. That's right, you GF fiends, there is safe drinking to be found inside this Dabbler and it's really, really good.

PEPPERJAX EXPRESS

This new-to-us truck specializes in the Philly—the sandwich with paper-thin slices of meat coated with gooey cheese, onions, and peppers and piled onto a hoagie bun.

With:

BRAU BROTHERS BREWING COMPANY

Their beers have inspired a passionate following. Their smooth and creamy Moo Joos continues to be my go-to brew, an oatmeal stout that's delicious for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert.

POTTER'S PASTIES

For those who've never tasted them, Potter's Pasties are a savory meat mitten sort of meal. Pie dough is wrapped around all manner of fillings and baked to perfection. They are hearty and just begging for a great brew buddy for sipping.

With:

ENKI BREWING CO

Named for the Sumerian god of Running Water, this brewery is breezing in from Victoria. I hope they're bringing some of their Hootenanny Hefe, a summery, German-style wheat-malt heavy pour that came to party.

RA MAC SAMMY

RA Mac Sammy specializes in paper boats brimming with elbow noodles covered in the gooey stuff. If you're feeling adventurous there are a myriad of ways to customize your dish. Bacon is one option, although it should probably be mandatory.

With:

NORTHGATE BREWING

Their English-style ales are popping up all over town, not just near their Northeast brewery. The Wall's End would be the living end paired with the mac and cheesiness.

RUSTY TACO

Tacos wrapped in corn tortillas and topped with all the familiar favorites, including pineapple. Oh, you aren't used to ordering pineapple atop your tacos? Well, perhaps you should. Sip on that!

With:

THE HERKIMER PUB AND BREWERY

While you're sipping, you can check out one of the brews from Herkimer. Uptown's original brewhouse, they were up on this craft brew deal before it became a big deal.

SCRATCH FOOD TRUCK

Scratch Food Truck is run and owned by the chef who used to run the kitchen at Subo, the short-lived Filipino restaurant in downtown. The food here are favorites given a chef-y twist, like a crazy crispy fried chicken sandwich with crunchy, creamy slaw.

With:

BENT PADDLE BREWERY

Duluth's Bent Paddle Brewery came on the scene more like a yacht than a canoe. Their carefully crafted brews are full of depth and brightness with beautiful little bubbles. It's enough to make the pilgrimage up I-35, but luckily you don't have to go anywhere other than Loring Park for a taste this Pride.

SIMPLY STEVE'S

I wonder if he decided to call it Simply Steve's because of his dedication to creating good food that you won't need a dictionary to understand? This is a foam-free zone with burgers and sandwiches that will satisfy.

With:

EXCELSIOR BREWING COMPANY

Excelsior is brimming with new business; new restaurants seem to be popping up left and right. I wonder if it's that they're trying to get closer to this employee-owned brewery.

STANLEY'S ON WHEELS

The Northeast neighborhood outpost goes mobile with hearty portions. The slightly sweet barbecue pork is piled atop a massive bun that won't leave you wanting for much else in the world.

With:

BIG WOOD BREWERY

The name is as subtle as the brews they serve. (It's not that they're compensating for anything.) Fingers crossed that they're serving up a giant morning wood; it's a coffee-flavored stout. What did you think I was talking about?

TASTE OF TARGET FIELD

Did you know that Target Field got in on the food truck action? It's true. Here they bring a taste of the ball game to the streets.

With:

ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY

If you haven't tasted a brew from Rock Bottom Brewery in Minneapolis, you clearly haven't been drinking locally enough. Now's your chance.

TIKI TIM'S

Oh dear, Tiki Tim's, let's never let us be apart for so many months again. All those cold dreaded days were so empty without your insanely awesome fish tacos. This might just be a love for the ages.

With:

DANGEROUS MAN BREWING CO

If you haven't headed over to Dangerous Man's Nordeast brewery yet, now is your chance to sample what everyone has been raving about. You don't have to have a beard to quaff their brews, but it wouldn't hurt.

TOLLEFSON FAMILY GRILL

You can't get much closer to farm-to-truck dining than dining at the trailer run by the family farm. Their pork sausages are grilled to perfection.

With:

612BREW

These guys might have my favorite taproom and it's probably only in part because I'm obsessed with their Rated R brew. All their selections are satisfying sippers.

TURKEY TO GO

The beloved State Fair booth has got themselves a food truck and the tender turkey meat is just as wonderfully smoky and seasoned as you remember. Piled on a squishy white bread bun, it's perfect for eating while people watching.

With:

FULTON BREWERY

Because you know a friend digging into a pile of turkey is really just looking for a Lonely Blonde, Fulton pairs perfectly with this truck. The newly expanded brewery is still turning out some of my favorite local brews and it goes well with everything—just like turkey! ■

**The Beer Dabbler reserves the right to change the food truck and brewery pairings at any time. For more information, go to www.thebeerdabbler.com.*

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(left) Caroline Glawe, Beth Fisher. Photos by Isabel Subtil

The Women of WISE ACRE EATERY

By Joy Summers

In many ways, the team leading the kitchen and the front of house inside Wise Acre Eatery are complete opposites. Chef Beth Fisher is direct, her speech peppered with line cook phrasing. The youngest of three, and the only girl, she embraced the special brand of love found working in a professional kitchen. That kind of teasing reminded her of her brothers. Fishers' chef pants are accessorized with battle scars, she prefers her hair pulled back and her t-shirts black. Caroline Glawe grew up the eldest of her siblings. She exudes the easy going, warm hospitality for which the restaurant is known. She found her initial profession in human resources, protecting companies, helping employees, pulling together strong teams to get the job done. Her stylish hair is perfectly coiffed, and it's clear she embraces bold colors. For some, these differences would lead to contention. For these two, it's a sound foundation of a love that has lasted for over twenty-three years.

The two first met through the ads in the publication *Equal Time*. "In those days, it was the only way to meet people, other than bars," said Glawe. "I wrote an ad and got a lot of great responses, but no sparks. I was just combing through the other ads—having fun and getting ideas on how to write something better." Beth's ad caught her eye. She was charmed by the writing and reached out, planning only to share the compliment. She signed her letter with a cartoon caricature of herself. It was when they first spoke that the thunderbolt hit. "I knew right away," she smiled, "the timbre and tone of her voice… I *like* this person."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 68

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Their first date began at Café Wyrd and progressed to a nearby Mexican restaurant, Two Pesos. Glawe was still on her best first date behavior, sipping a Diet Coke and admiring Fisher as she dug into a burrito.

"And probably drinking a beer," she interjected.

Glawe admired her confidence, her ease and before long, they would embark on several adventures.

Meanwhile, Chef Fisher was working at Lucia's, the seminal locavore restaurant, alongside Lucia Watson. Inside that kitchen she was able to promote her love of farm fresh cuisine. Fisher had grown up first on a farm in Arkansas, before moving with her family to Deephaven. Her father had been an engineer who sold strong-bar steel at state fairs. Her mother was a stewardess when they met. The family lived in Minnesota, but would always return to the South for the summers. It was there that the young Fisher spent time in the kitchen with her grandmother creating taste memories that can be found all over the menu at Wise Acre. (Just get a mouthful of those biscuits and her grandmother's recipe for white gravy.)

When Glawe was staring down the barrel of another Human Resources job, the two realized they would pretty much never see each other. A restaurant job means working while the rest of the world is out having fun. At Fisher's urging, she followed her passion for entertaining and great wine and dove back into the hospitality world she'd left behind in her teenage years. Glawe found herself inside Bobino, working with their wine program and getting the chance to really dig into her passion for not just the wine, but entertaining people. Her gracious nature and ability to organize made her a perfect fit.

Eventually the two began their own consulting business TWO Food & Wine Design. After nearly thirteen years of working in Lucia's kitchen it was time for Chef Fisher to develop her own cuisine; to find her own food voice. She reached into those memories of cast iron skillets, collard greens, and plenty of bacon. The bacon you can find on the plates she sends out now for her scrumptious breakfasts is the culmination of those first forays into what she wanted to cook.

The two already knew Scott Endres and Dean Engelmann as the owners of Tangletown Gardens and they were excited to read in the neighborhood newspaper that Endres and Engelmann had purchased the erstwhile Liberty Custard building next to their lush shop and would open a restaurant, which would be Wise Acre Eatery.

This was the moment when these two took a deep breath, reached for each other and leapt into the next chapter in their story, with Endres and Engelmann. That was three years ago and fans have fallen hard for this beautiful spot, covered in greenery and dotted with reminders of the farm where all the ingredients are sourced.

That farm has been in Engelmann's family for four generations. What struck Fisher and Glawe was the way they cared for the animals and the land. Both women have family roots in farming and both were so glad to see the way the Engelmann family cared for their animals and the land. There are no pesticides, no pumping their animals up on antibiotics, and no cramming them into pens. "It's an expensive way to farm," said Fisher. Everything aligned with their beliefs.

"It was serendipity," says Glawes.

In the time that they have been running the front and back of the house at Wise Acre, the staff has become extended family overseen by these two proud mamas. There's very little turnover and the customers have become beloved friends. It's a community in this picturesque corner of Minneapolis where they're making the world a better place one plate at a time. ■

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GET TO KNOW

CHEF MIKE RAKUN

WHAT MAKES YOUR MENU AT MARIN DIFFERENT?

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In the spring and summer, our patio bar is the best in town. I'll sip on one of our great gin and tonics with my friends, and experiment with one of our new cocktails. What I love about our space is the richness and comfort of the restaurant. I love seeing the reaction when guests see the variety of different areas for the first time.

PLANS FOR SUMMER?

There's nothing better than growing my own herbs on the patio garden, and having access to the freshest local food from the region. It gives me the opportunity to always try new things. As a chef, fresh, local ingredients are the greatest.

FAVORITE DISH?

That's a tough one to answer for any chef, because I've put so much into each item. I love the fig and prosciutto flatbread with a craft beer for a casual bite, but nothing really beats the cherry mustard salmon or ahi tuna with an extra side of lemon quinoa or risotto.

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The bar at Mattie's: I'm just here for the GOOD TIME. Photo by E. Katie Holm

MATTIE'S ON MAIN
Gastropub With a Great View

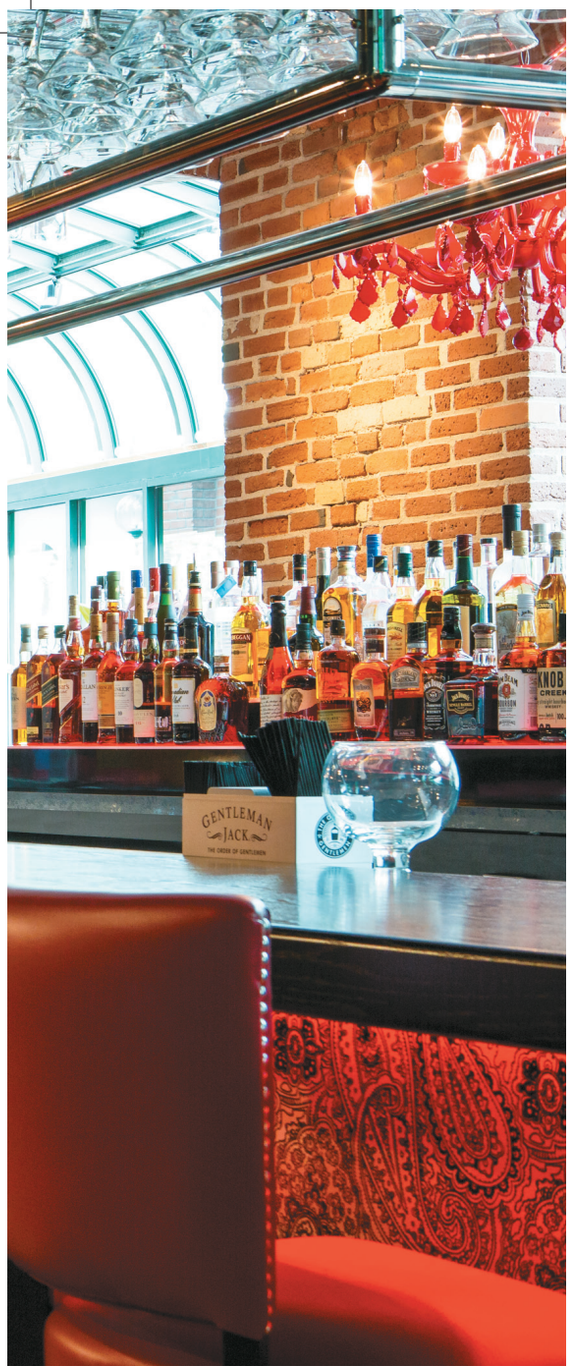
By Pat Evans

Some new memories are about to be made on the river in Minneapolis. Storied St. Anthony Main is beginning a new chapter by turning back the page to its bawdy past. Restaurateurs Dean Schlaak and Tom DeGree of Wilde Roast Cafe along with longtime friend and business partner Brian Gilligan are embarking on a new culinary adventure.

They've opened Mattie St. Clair's House of Spirits on Main Street, or "Mattie's On Main" for short, in the 5,800 square foot space formerly occupied by Kikugawa. Think modern saloon meets gastropub.

"Tom came up with the name after looking up some of the history of the area on the web," Dean proudly says of his husband. "The waterfront was filled with brothels and Mattie was one of the more notorious madams who lived near the site in the late 1800s."

Craft-tinis with names like The Red Light, Sweet Vixen, and Taking Care of Business give a fun nod to the long-departed madams. Then there's the décor. Velvety red accent walls mixed with black and white houndstooth and paisley create a Moulin Rouge bordello chic vibe.





Owners Brian Gilligan, Dean Schlaak, and Tom DeGree. Photo by E. Katie Holm

"It's an amazing location and the historic nature of the building and what we've been able to convert it to lends itself so much to what we want to do," says Brian, while standing next to the sleek black bar which faces dramatic views of the waterfront and city skyline. "We hope people will want to come here a couple of times a week. We want it to be a friendly neighborhood place, kind of like Cheers."

Of course, food is going to play a big role in helping make that happen. And Le Cordon Bleu-trained Executive Chef Adam Icard is eager to meet the challenge. "We didn't just want to have simple bar food like wings," he insists. "Dean wanted to have a gastropub type feel to the menu, so the other two chefs and I approached this by deconstructing some familiar things and making them completely different . We even make our own condiments from scratch."

Tom and Dean say when they made the move from Hennepin Avenue a few years ago, "it was scary, we were going from 8 to 80 employees." However, those fears quickly abated as their new neighbors embraced them. (Some of them even helped raise $40,000 for the new restaurant in a recent Kickstarter campaign.) Now they are hoping their newest addition to the neighborhood will be met with the same enthusiasm. No doubt wherever she is, Mattie St. Clair will be cheering them on. ■

◇◇◇



Erin Schwab and Jay Fuchs provide Cabaret Power on stage at Mattie's. Photo by E. Katie Holm



Executive Chef Adam Icard and Craig Ball. Photo by E. Katie Holm

Buffalo Blue Cheese Spheres. Tasty take on wings, only these are fried chicken meat balls…smear them in the cauliflower parsnip puree and buffalo blue cheese mornay sauce. (You won't want share a bite with anyone, so make sure they order their own.) Photo by E. Katie Holm

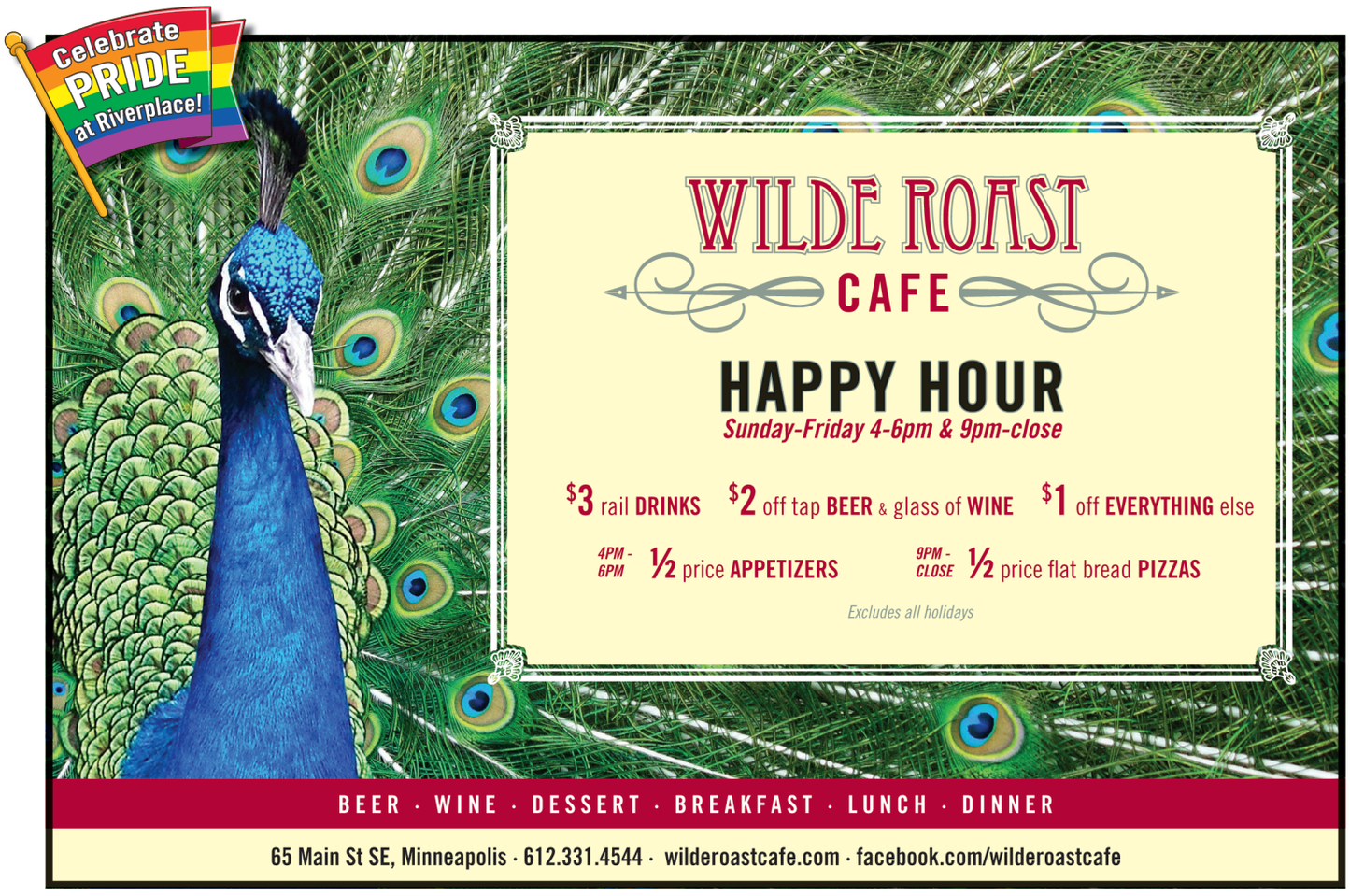




The District, Signature burger. Butter lettuce, cornmeal and rice flour-battered tomato for crunch, thick yellow onion, egg, and Worcestershire beef patty on a light-as-air bun. Photo by E. Katie Holm

GOOD TO KNOW

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By John Townsend



The Beaux' Stratagem. Photo by Ron Ravensborg

THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM

Through June 22
Theatre in the Round Players
245 Cedar Ave., Mpls.
(612) 333-3010
www.theatreintheround.org

Playwright George Farquhar is a major figure of 18th century English comedy. Classic American playwright, Thornton Wilder, began adapting *The Beaux' Stratagem*, Farquhar's most famous play, in 1939 but it wasn't finished until almost six decades later by Ken Ludwig. At TRP Daniel Ellis has directed that version.

Ellis points out that "written in 1707, it was one of the first plays dealing with the legal concept of divorce, well before the Church of England even recognized the idea. That didn't happen until 1857. Farquhar was in an unhappy marriage at the time, and he certainly makes a case for the importance of happiness within marriage with hilarious results. At its core *The Beaux' Stratagem* is a romantic comedy that examines the freedom to choose who we love and the importance that the journey to understanding our own true selves has in each of our lives."

Two rakish men, and two women they have affection for, are the characters in this comedy of manners which Ellis notes often deals with social constructs created by hierarchic class divisions. In the middle of the previous century the Puritans gained political control of England and shut down all theaters. They saw theater as a den of vice. When the monarchy was ultimately restored, women were allowed to appear on stage for the first time. The return of the monarchy and the downfall of Puritanism is known as the Restoration Era. So *The Beaux' Stratagem* lives in the afterglow of that gigantic social shift.

THE FINAL FRONTIER FESTIVAL: A ONE ACT SCI-FI GEEK FEST

Through June 22
Nimbus Theatre, 1517 Central NE, Mpls.
www.brownpapertickets.com

Gadfly Theatre has been solidifying their reputation as serious and artful theater dealing with feminist and genderqueer themes and issues. Now they've really gone out there with sci-fi from various queer and feminist perspectives. Here are some comments from some of the playwrights.

Matthew Everett describes: "A gay and a lesbian astronaut are charged with repopulating the world. And it's called *Love Bot* and there's also a robot involved. I normally describe it to people as 'two gay astronauts and a robot have to repopulate the galaxy' which always gets a laugh, a good sign for a comedy. The robot is half-male and half-female, both halves designed to be just each astronauts' 'type' after a computer cataloged all their likes and dislikes in and out of bed and all their former lovers, good and bad."

"Underneath the comedy, I wanted to toy with the notion of gay people not only becoming parents but becoming the mother and father of the new human race after the original human race finds itself wiped out. Gay people these days actively choose to become parents, and technology and evolving social norms seem to keep making that easier and easier. I'm a godfather myself, and children both fascinate and terrify me. Being responsible for another human life, for even just bringing that life into existence, is an enormous and humbling responsibility."

"Also, there's the question of "If someone (the robot) was designed to be perfect for you, would you just warm up to them right away? Would they win you over with no trouble? Would you trust something that ideal to be real? Can a manufactured relationship become a real relationship? And if that person isn't really a human being, if there were no more human beings, how would you feel about being the last of your kind, about the fact of actual human touch no longer being an option? The female astronaut is definitely feeling the weight of being the only childbearing human in the universe. All of this is handled with a very light touch, and if you're just looking for a sex comedy with sci fi overtones, that's very much there, too."

Alyssa Zaczek, who has written *The Wolves Above* relates that "I had one too many former boyfriends tell me that when they looked at me they saw the future mother of their children. Not a woman, not a playwright, not a strong and individual human: an incubator. So I wrote the play to give back the choice to myself and women like me. We hold the power over our own bodies, and in turn, our own paths in life."

The *Gargle McFury Sage Part II* by Alex Reed involves a protagonist who inherently defies boundaries. Reed says, "He/she exists outside not only time, space, and probability, but outside every category we might use to classify a person, especially (those of) sex and gender. Gargle is able to share a little of this freedom from categorization and labeling with one of us mere mortals, a sci-fi fan who feels constrained from expressing her fandom because of her gender."

GORE VIDAL: THE UNITED STATES OF AMNESIA

now screening
Lagoon Cinema, 1320 Lagoon Ave., Mpls.
(612) 823-3020
www.landmarktheatres.com

When Gore Vidal (1925-2012) was called a queer by conservative celebrity intellectual William F. Buckley in 1968, Paul Newman took him to task afterward. Newman and wife Joanne Woodward were there for their dear friend. The whole event is a pivotal moment in GLBT liberation and in the Sexual Revolution. The Newmans may be one of the first straight power couples to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 76



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ever come out as allies. Moreover, Vidal, poised as ever, said on national TV that Buckley had the right to say whatever he wanted because this is, after all, America.

That's the kind of man Vidal was. No victim he. But if you dished it out to him, you'd better have been able to take it. Even if you were a President, like his step brother-in-law, JFK. This glorious documentary titled by one of Vidal's renowned catch-phrases, is not only the portrait of a captivating and heroic figure, it is a mind-blowing counter-reflection of the US in the 20th century—a counter-reflection because Vidal gave us brilliantly observed counter-narratives about our nation. He wasn't a one-note Johnny who only talked about identity politics. His was a rich and broad overview. Some of his thoughts on US history and politics will shock some. And for those who resort to calling those who run counter "conspiracy theorists," if you actively watch and listen, he will likely shatter your argument. Pearl Harbor, Bay of Pigs, Harry Truman, and as much as he loathed Ronald Reagan he gives him credit for making a genuine effort to help the former USSR take its place on the global scene, unlike, in his view, all of the succeeding presidents.

Much of Nicholas Wrathall's film delves into Vidal's queer aspects. His early gem, *The City and the Pillar,* the first American novel to openly portray homosexuality, got him blacklisted by the New York Times for years, yet started his rise to become America's fiercest, not to mention, handsomest, nonacademic intellectual. Wrathall covers just how wildly controversial his satirical novel *Myra Breckenridge* was, largely because of what would now be called its 'gender-queer' elements. Vidal's domestic partnership with Howard Auster is discussed. And of course, there is reflection on his youthful friend, Jimmie Trimble, whose death in World War II dramatically shifted his view of love and war.

If there is only one film, or even only one single event, you attend for Pride Month, this is the one I most passionately recommend. Vidal was a Titan. And did you know that his buddy Tennessee Williams out-shot both Vidal and JFK during recreational target shooting match? And did you know that Dr. Alfred Kinsey, father of the Sexual Revolution, truly admired the man? Well, if you know about Vidal, that will come as no surprise. But whether you know about him or not, you must not miss this marvelous documentary. It is revealing, uplifting, and it clarifies much about what we've been fed about 20th century America.

MY ANTONIA

Through June 28
Illusion Theater at Lowry Lab
350 St. Peter St., St. Paul
(612) 339-4944
www.illusiontheater.org

Minneapolis-based Illusion Theater has revived their IVEY-winning production of Allison Moore's fine adaptation of the classic novel by lesbian icon Willa Cather (1873-1947). This time, Andrea San Miguel plays the leading role. Cather wrote of life on the Great Plains and the way the land and its rigors shaped human character. Though the book and the play don't deal with lesbian issues, it's still a reflection of a lesbian sensibility. Illusion Theater is also a steady producer of plays that reflect progressive ideas. Just as Cather was a progressive thinker in her day, so Illusion Theater maintains that tradition. They're known for their outstanding productions dealing with gender, sexuality, and race, while casting the cream of the local acting crop. For Pride Month this is certainly a play that will make you feel proud of where we've come from and how we have contributed to American culture.



My Antonia. Photo by Lauren B. Photography

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD

Through June 25
Guthrie Theater, 812 So. 2nd St., Mpls.
(612) 377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

The Guthrie's WorldStage series has the UK's Out of Joint and Octagon Theatre Bolton performing their celebrated revival of Timberlake Wertenbaker's contemporary classic about a prison stage production in the early years of the colonization of Australia. It's directed by the iconic Max Stafford-Clark (*Top Girls*). Within the play, the prisoner characters enact a Restoration Comedy. *Our Country's Good* reveals the dynamics of punishment and hierarchy in a truly unique way. It's a play rich with insight about how human behavior is shaped and modified by social and militaristic boundaries.

Richard Neale plays Major Ross. He observes that "sexuality is portrayed as a survival technique, as perverted enjoyment, and as a weapon as well as the traditional romantic engagement. Interestingly there isn't blatant homophobia in the play, just an acceptance that Ralph may be a 'madge-cull' or a 'molly' or a 'prissy cove' or a 'girl.' It's important to remember that London in the 1700s catered for nearly any sexual desire going. Molly Houses—where cross-dressing men were paid by male clients to cavort with them—although illegal, were sought out. The word 'whore' didn't necessarily mean a *woman* who was paid for sex."



Our Country's Good. Photo by Robert Workman

Neale on the social background of the prisoners: "The prisoners are from a general social background, but their particular upbringings and experiences give them contrasting views and outlooks on the world. Liz Morden's thoughts on what being 'English' means differ from Wieshammer's. This is reflected in the officers too. Governor Arthur Phillip wants to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 78

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reform the convicts, whereas Tench is adamant that criminals are born that way. This in turn changes every relationship with each and every officer and convict. There was as much wrangling and contention between the Marines and Naval officers safeguarding the colony as there was between the convicts. Both marines and convicts were hanged for stealing food and marines often took on convict wives, only to leave them in Australia when they returned home after their service. This happens to the real life Mary Brenham. This is why the doubling of the characters in the play is so wonderful."

On the characters and British imperialism: "We hear so many different sides of Britain's value system at the time. Timberlake writes a wonderfully textured argument and debate that every character voices in some way throughout. Major Ross voices that soldiers are being sent to Australia for punishment as much as the prisoners. The Aboriginal shows us the devastating effect of imperialism on the indigenous population. Collins talks about the experiment of the penal colony and Weishammer brings the convicts' feelings eloquently home in his proposed prologue for the play (within a play). It's a wonder Sydney was ever able to exist and the play hosts every pro and anti argument for that, the need of theatre in 'civilization' and indeed, what 'civilization' actually is."

QUEER PROM

Sunday evening, June 22
Hell's Kitchen, 80 So. 9th St., Mpls.
(612) 227-1188
www.tctwentypercent.org

It's becoming a tradition. It has a gender-queer-friendly view to say the least. And it's another cool offering by 20% Theatre Company Twin Cities. Beloved DJ Shannon Blowtorch says, "I'll be facilitating a dance floor for folks to have a nice time and dance. Setting a positive vibe for the people to get down. I know that for me personally, in my high school days, there was never the option for me to bring a same-sex date to prom. For many of us in the GLBTQ community that was never an option. Today it may be an option, but still may come with consequences. This party every single year has been nothing but amazing and a kick-ass time!"

SHIP OF FOOLS

Through June 28
Interact Theater, 212 Third Ave. N., Mpls.
(800) 838 -3006
www.interactcenter.com

Kyle Cadotte and Matt Trucano are renowned for their physically oriented performance process at Chicago's lauded Bricklayers Theater. They have co-directed a collaboration about authoritarians and underdogs inspired by Sebastian Brandt's 15th century allegory through mask and playful language. The company they are directing are the actors of Interact, the region's foremost theater for persons with disabilities.

Trucano says that GLBT actors have created "masked characters or alter egos that allow them to express themselves in ways that they are perhaps not able to fully show in their normal lives. Gender is questioned as men play women, and women play men. Labels are thrown away in favor of finding a common humanity of radical inclusion. Actor Sam V. whose signature number "I Belong in a Dress." sung in *basso profundo*, really captures his persona."



2013 Queer Prom. Photo by Rebecca Jean Lawrence Photography

SWAGGERDANCE

Through June 15
Red Eye Theater
15 West 14th St., Mpls.
(612) 870-0309
www.redeyetheater.org

When a celebrated veteran dancer is excited about a choreographer, then it's most likely something worth finding out about. The brilliant Jim Lieberthal has had a great experience with choreographer Chris Yon who has staged him and others in S*waggerdance,* a part of Red Eye's *Isolated Acts* series.

Lieberthal shares that he "really appreciate(s) how Chris listens to the movement, observes interrelationships within complex patterning, and how he treats us as creative, supportive, and contributing professionals. He is fascinating in the way he makes quick changes to continually release new energies via movement, audio, or improvisational avenues to make a world of his own. And it's funny!"

Lieberthal describes what he does in the piece: "I dance in and around others, with Gabe Anderson in duets that are then manipulated improvisationally by Taryn and Arwin. Those moments are never the same. We all wear jewel-like colors. My color is plum. Or if a jewel, maybe amethyst." ■



Swaggerdance. Photo by Liz Josheff

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Burning Blue. Photo courtesy of Lionsgate

Gay Military Masculinity Richly Mined in the Unprecedented "Burning Blue"

By John Townsend

Seldom has gay love in film been this masculine. Seldom has such a masculine and intelligent film had the juice for what it takes to actually reach out to a mainstream audience. If the marketing at Lionsgate puts its full force behind it, *Burning Blue* could be a box office smash even in mid-size American cities and among that vast layer of American men who seem to only be comfortable with action films and ESPN. Seldom has such a masculine film's original source come from a stage play. Though *Burning Blue* isn't exactly an action film, it's got all the testosterone and virility of one. Yet, it courageously penetrates tectonically deep emotions seldom mined in masculine films, but action lovers will love it.

Burning Blue is inspired by the experience of its US Naval Academy graduate playwright, D.M.W. Greer. As a play, it was a 1995 smash on London's West End and won an Olivier. For those who don't know, the West End and the Olivier Award are the equivalents of New York's Broadway and Tony Award. Though it had a smash run in Los Angeles the following year, it didn't play New York until 2002 and, although audiences and critics loved it, it never transferred from Off-Broadway to Broadway. In 2008, Greer and co-writer Helene Kvale co-wrote their electrifying screenplay of the drama but it wasn't completed until 2012. It played the festival circuit the following year and is finally out in movie theaters. And it's remarkable.

The narrative centers on a 1990s government investigation by agents when Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) had swung into effect. Some fatal accidents have occurred related to an aircraft carrier. Four naval pilots are under suspicion and the agents also suspect these men are gay. Dan (Trent Ford) is secretly gay and Will (Morgan Spector) is his straight pilot buddy. Will is fully unaware of Dan's homosexual aspect and they bond in the emotional way that many men bond in the military and in sports, that proverbial male bonding that includes deep friendship and honor codes, which is automatically assumed to be between heterosexual men.

Agents Cokely, a white homophobe, and Jones, a black homophobe, played to chilling effect by Michael Sirow and Chris Chalk, are reminiscent of vice squad cops programmed to project homosexual intentions where they simply don't exist. The question of whether they are surveilling or stalking is a piercing one that resonates in light of recent NSA revelations and in the way both men seem to relish their work a bit too much. Remember, too, that at the time of *Burning Blue*, witch hunt conservative Christians Ken Starr and John Roberts were clearly fascinated by President Clinton's heterosexuality.

When Cokely spies Dan and fellow pilot Matt (Rob Mayes) dancing in a gay club the assumption is that they must be gay, although their partnering there is no different than what would be socially acceptable if it were two women. And for those who have ever gotten hot and heavy on a dance floor, man to man, Dan and Matt, are pre-vanilla. Yet, this sets off Cokely.

Nonetheless, both agents have the lingo and the special ops-style indoctrination to swiftly unsettle anyone in their path, whether it's Will, Dan, Matt, or Susan, Will's empathic devoted wife (an exquisite Tammy Blanchard). But Cokely does meet his match in what may be the most delicious skewering of a homophobe in film by pilot Charlie, played by the dazzling William Lee Scott. Cokely tries to get him to talk smack about his pilot brothers in the locker room. Need I say more?

Burning Blue puts forth something that many do not yet realize: straight military men who have never had sex with a man and their non-military wives could/can still be targeted and have their lives destroyed by false insinuation and innuendo. In the case of Matt, who actually is gay, its a matter of breaking him during interrogation, inducing guilt and shame, and making him doubt himself and insinuating he is that worst of worst: a traitor.

Cinematographer Frederic Fasano, editor Bill Henry, and Greer, who actually directed the film, have ingeniously captured subtleties, nuance, and subliminal gay emanations that the numinous and intuitive cast has spirited forth. It's perhaps the most revealing look into the correlation between uber-masculinity and homosexuality in American cinema.

In our time of shooting rampages and adolescent action films, it's easy to denigrate masculinity in movie men of action. And it's understandable and, sometimes, even reasonable. But in the column of thoughtful films that appeal to hyper-machismo, it's good to acknowledge the insights of pictures like *Savages*, *Jack Reacher*, *End of Watch*, and now, *Burning Blue*. In the column of great military film classics, Greer's picture ranks alongside *The Caine Mutiny* and *A Few Good Men*. ■

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RICH HAMSON

Distinguished Costume Designer Makes Fantasy a Reality

By John Townsend

This year Rich Hamson has wowed the Twin Cities with three radically different and extraordinary costume designs for three hit stage productions. For Theater Latté Da and Hennepin Theatre Trust's Broadway Re-imagined Production, he designed *Cabaret* for its successful winter run. They were, quite simply, some of the sexiest costumes ever put on a major Twin Cities stage. We were transported to a dark dimension of eroticism, militarism, and vaudevillian irreverence.

Since then, only a few months later, Hamson designed for Chanhassen Dinner Theatres' dreamy production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* as well as *Shrek the Musical* at the Children's Theatre. These sumptuously gorgeous costumes enter the realm of children's fantasy and are works of art in themselves. Fins, seahorse heads, and medieval fairy tale archetypes occupy spaces in the imagination all their own and Hamson breathes life into the fantasy. He dazzles, transporting us to new dimensions. *Cabaret*, a vision of darkness in triumph, is contrasted with two children's works that are visions of light.

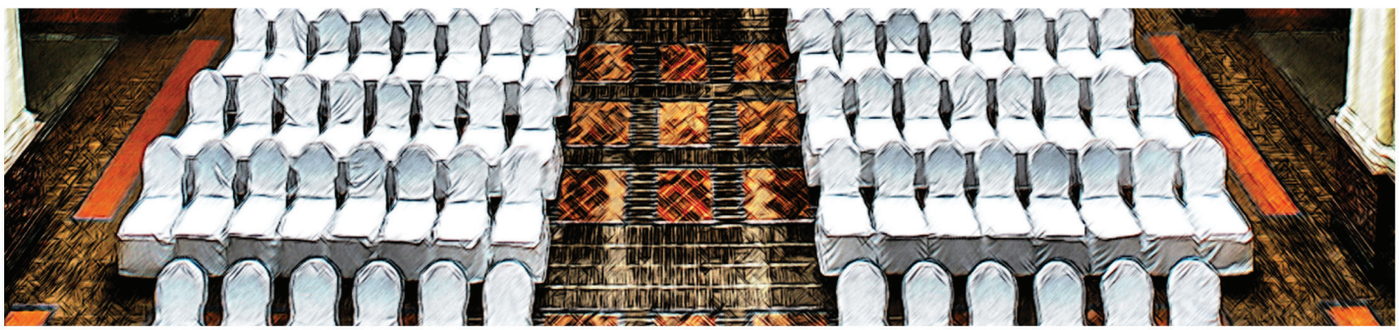
Obviously, the genius that created these three designs just this year has been evolving for decades. However, the way he found his distinction in the theater world came about in a truly unique way. It's a remarkable story in itself. I asked Rich Hamson some questions about his work at the world's foremost dinner theater company and the experience that has led to it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 84

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JT: You design the costumes but you also have other responsibilities at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres.

RH: My job at Chan is a combination of what is usually two different jobs in most other theaters of this size. Usually, theaters will have a costume shop manager and the designers will be brought in on a guest basis. Here, I do the day-to-day management of the ongoing productions, making sure that laundry and notes are completed on a regular schedule, understudies are outfitted and ready to jump into roles, and, if necessary, costumes are built and constructed for replacements. We can have up to five new actors going into a production on a single day. In prep for a new show, I will hire and schedule the additional drapers and stitchers who come in for a seven- to eight-week construction period. I will also spend hours each day, in the four weeks prior to my crew arriving, researching, sketching, and buying fabric. Needless to say, the job almost always overflows into nights and weekends.

JT: How did you get started with costumes?

RH: I always like to say that I kind of fell into this profession by accident. When I was in college I was intrigued by the art form and did my tech theater lab hours in the shop but my true passion was for being on stage. After teaching high school for a year—I was a horrible teacher and have great admiration for people who are good at that profession—I moved to the Twin Cities determined to be a working actor. I started to work at all those wonderful nonprofessional theaters that existed in the late '70s that did major amounts of musical theater: Centre Stage, Chimera, Minnetonka, Bloomington Civic. At Bloomington Civic, I was playing the Leading Player in Pippin and I kept having these pictures in my head of what my troupe of traveling players should look like. The costumer of the production was having a bit of a struggle coming up with a look and so I went to her with my idea and said that if she and the director wanted to go with it, I would make sure that they got done. She graciously accepted and, with my limited skills and the help of other people in the cast, we got them done.

Suddenly, based on that design, I was starting to get asked to design other shows, or Renaissance Festival costumes, or dance costumes. About that time, I was making my living as a singer with The Edgewater Eight and still doing freelance costume design on the side. Suddenly, I was called in out of the blue to audition for *Romeo and Juliet* at the Guthrie and basically ended up doing small roles and being Peter McNichol's understudy for the rest of the season. At the same time, I managed to complete a design of Camelot for Bloomington Civic.

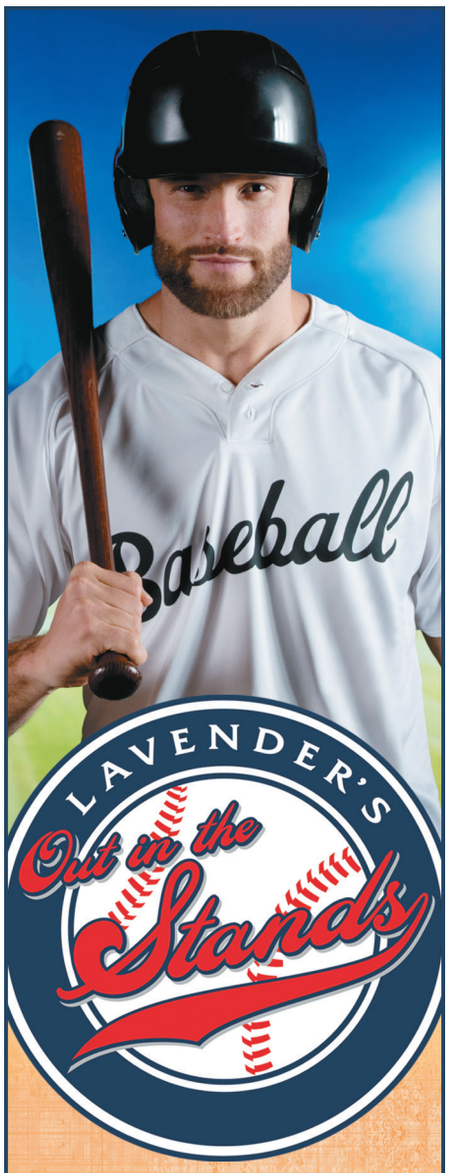
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The Producers. Photo by Act One, Too



Shrek. Photo by Dan Norman



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JT: What are some of your memories of that time in your life?

RH: After doing replacement work in two shows at Chanhassen, I headed to New York. Many auditions later, and realizing that I really didn't have the drive it took to survive in that city, I returned home to Minneapolis and started making the rounds again. One day, out of the blue, I got a call from Ed Jones, the costume shop manager at Chimera Theatre, asking me if I wanted a job as a stitcher with the possibility of designing down the road. He had seen my production of *Camelot* at BCT and thought I had potential. I basically apprenticed for five years, learning how to stitch, flat pattern, and drape, and refining my design skills. It was an amazing experience with amazing people who taught me so much. If that hadn't happened, I really doubt that I would be in the business today. Oh, and the acting took a back seat, although I did dabble with it again occasionally, but never again relied on it for a livelihood.

JT: Tell me about some of your favorite shows you designed.

RH: At Chimera (a theater that was located in downtown St. Paul), *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and *Carnival*. At Actor's Theatre of St. Paul, *Interrogating the Nude* and *Peg of my Heart* and for Theater Latté Da, *La Bohème* and *Evita*. At Children's Theatre, *Mulan* and *Annie* and at The Jungle, *Blue Room* and *Souvenir*. And for the Guthrie, *Thief River* and *Lake Hollywood*.

JT: And of course, you've become a theater legend at Chanhassen. What about there?

RH: *Les Misèrables*, *Hairspray*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

JT: Did you meet your life partner in the theater?

RH: I met my partner, Jeff Sybrant, for the first time about 34 years ago, through mutual friends. At the time, I was really concentrating on an acting career and he was a student, and it was only after I moved back from New York that we reconnected. ■

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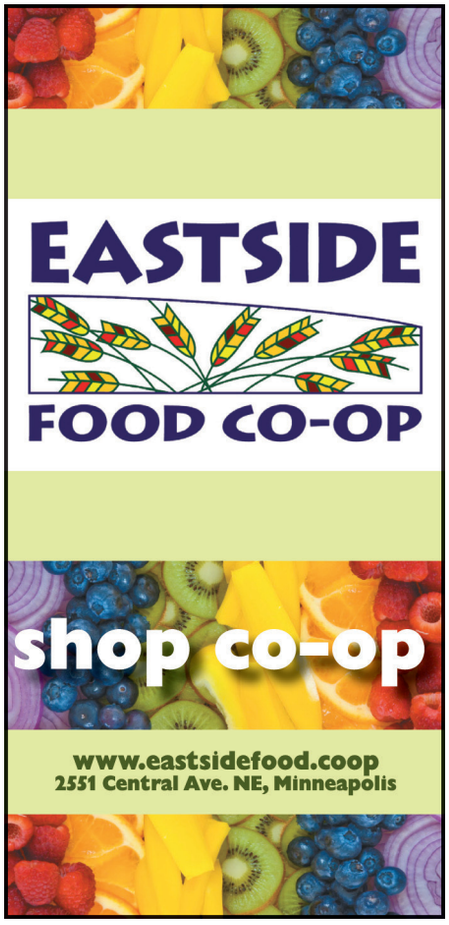
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Photo by Act One, Too



Little Mermaid. Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp, 2014

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[Our Clubs & Music]

By Ed Huyck



SONNY KNIGHT AND THE LAKERS
I'm Still Here

The backstory here is almost as amazing as the music. Sonny Knight has been on the edges of the local music scene for decades, but *I'm Still Here* is his solo debut. All of those pent-up years of gigging and working come out in this sharp slab of throwback soul. The two-part title track sets up the mood for the album as the gruff but soulful Knight looks back at the decades of hard work and heartache it took for him to finally break through. Musically, *I'm Still Here* has a classic sound from top to bottom, starting with a funky band that is expertly aided by a real-life horn section. This is an album that makes you want to dance from the opening notes.



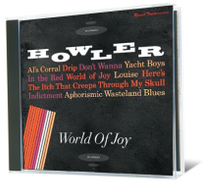
HALEY BONAR
Last War

The hard-working local singer-songwriter returns with a bright and engaging nine-song set. The album feels a bit like the gleaming dance rock of the early 1990s, and anyone who can bring the likes of Curve back to mind is a winner in my book. Beyond that, there are the compelling songs, tight vocal performances, and crafty musicianship that have made Bonar such a local and national favorite. From the sparkling noise of opener "Kill the Fun" through the moody delights of the title track to the folk-tinged "From a Cage," Bonar is in near-perfect form throughout the album. It's an album where distinct influences live side-by-side, crafting a delightful blend of music that is familiar but also extremely fresh.



ATMOSPHERE
Southsiders

Slug and Ant get extra funky on their latest album, which finds the rapper in a contemplative mood and the DJ hunting through classic 1970s soul in search of warm beats. This is the sound of artists heading into middle age—trying to remain relevant in an ever-shifting landscape (hmm, that really applies to everyone as they get older…) and keeping the musical and lyrical challenges fresh. The album is presented as an emotional tour of the Twin Cities, with the songs delving into the hopes, losses, and wreckage that accumulate over the years. Slug's rapping takes on an extra edge throughout, allowing songs like "Fortunate," "Bitter," and "Kanye West" (not really about the ego-driven rapper) to penetrate deep into the heart.



HOWLER
World of Joy

Oh, kids grow up so fast these days. Howler's debut was a raucous piece of straight ahead rock 'n' roll, loaded with loud guitars, pounding drums, and tons of attitude. Now, two years after their debut stormed the world, this Minneapolis-bred band has deepened their musical attack, while retaining most of the fire that made their music so appealing in the first place. The album is a short and sharp ride through the current mental space of leader Jordan Gatesmith, who details the confusion that success has brought through this brief (less than 28 minutes, like real punk rock) album. The mix of vintage, British-Invasion styles and the direct lyrical approach brings to mind the Replacements in their early days, though this isn't nearly as ramshackle. ■





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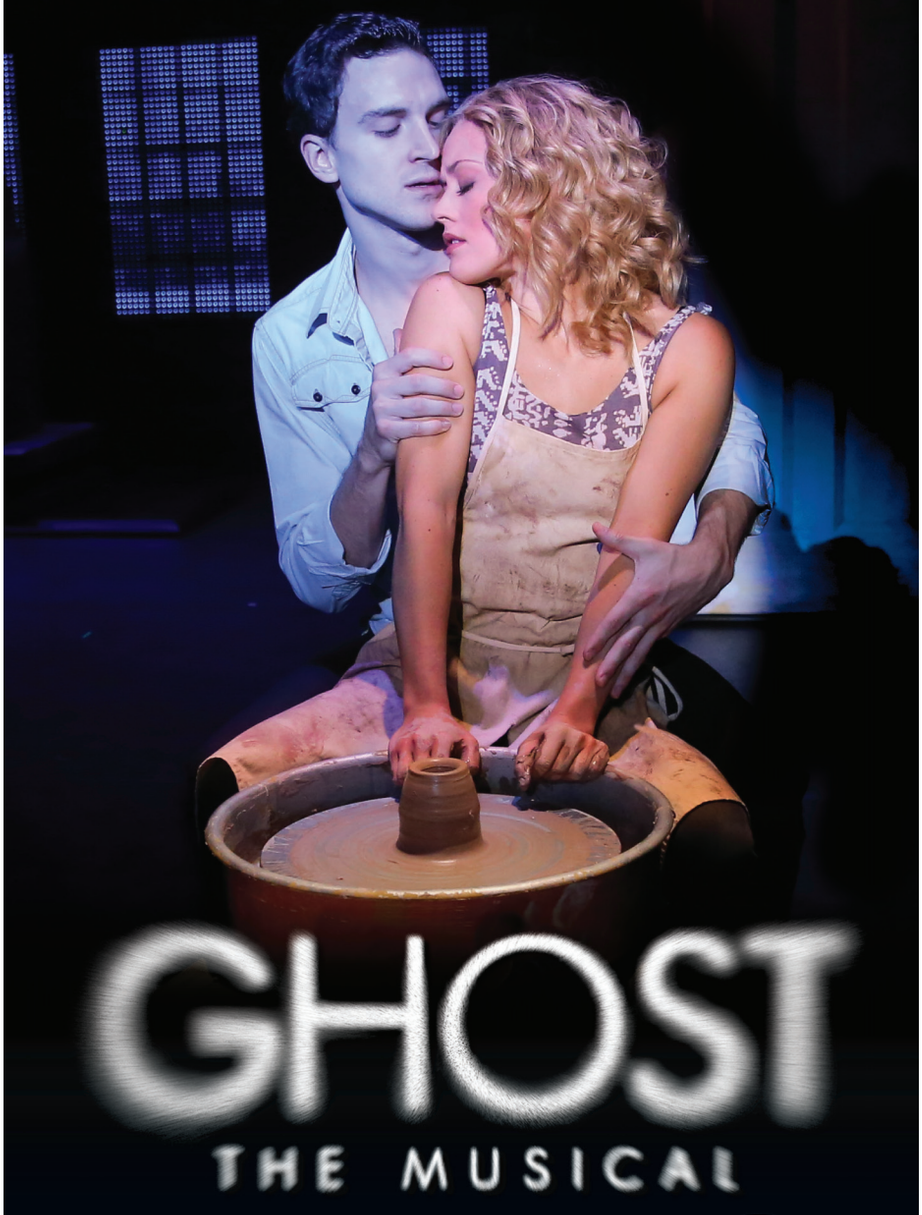
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MAYDA USES RECENT VISIT WITH BIRTH FAMILY TO FUEL NEW ALBUM

By Ed Huyck

A recent tour of South Korea changed the course of local singer-songwriter Mayda's latest album, *Busy Signals*.

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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"I WAS DEFINITELY ANXIOUS ABOUT IT. I WOULDN'T SAY NUMB, BUT I WAS VERY MUCH WRAPPED INTO MY SURROUNDINGS AND MY MUSIC. IT DIDN'T QUITE HIT ME UNTIL AFTER I MET THEM. IT WAS SO FAST AND CONFUSING," MAYDA SAID. "MY FIRST THOUGHT WHEN I WALKED INTO THE ROOM WAS, 'WOW. I DON'T LOOK LIKE THESE PEOPLE.'"

"A lot of the stuff has come from my recent trip to South Korea. I went there on tour for three weeks last September and I met my birth parents. It changed my whole life. A lot of songs came from that. Some of the songs were already written, so I changed them a little bit. I didn't feel right about them," she said.

Mayda's distinct brand of soulful rock and pop has earned her plenty of fans, performances across the world, and spots on a diverse list of television shows (from *Good Morning America* to *Jersey Girls*).

The artist has plenty of performances scheduled in the coming months following the release of *Busy Signals* in May, including a gig at this year's Pride celebration.

The performer was adopted at three months and grew up in a "typical dysfunctional midwestern family, with hotdish and whatever" in Como Park in St. Paul. She found an attraction to the arts early on. "My parents told me that whenever I would hear music in my crib, I would stand up and dance." Piano lessons came first, followed a few years later by the guitar.

"In fifth and sixth grade, I really got into the blues and rock music. I listened to grunge-based bands like Nirvana. I was into Weezer and Jimi Hendrix. I got into my own music," she said.

That included writing her own songs and starting an all-girl band, the Sugar Divas. That group gigged around for several years. "We weren't able to hang out at the bars. We would have to sit in the alley or at Jimmy John's and then play," Mayda said. "We did get to play with a lot of cool bands."

The band split up as the musicians graduated high school. While other members went off to college, Mayda continued to write music. Also, after writing and playing her own material for years, she decided to start singing as well.

"It is just something I couldn't really stop doing if I tried to. The only thing that really interested me was music," she said.

Which brings us back to her new album, which was touched by her meeting last year with her birth family. "When I was younger, I didn't have any desire to explore my roots, meet my parents, or have any contact with my birth family. I concentrated on being a cool teenager and an American girl," Mayda said. "For some reason, in the past couple of years I felt the need to uncover that part of my life and see what happens."

Mayda performed every day while touring



Korea, but the meeting with her parents certainly affected the whole experience.

"I was definitely anxious about it. I wouldn't say numb, but I was very much wrapped into my surroundings and my music. It didn't quite hit me until after I met them. It was so fast and confusing," Mayda said. "My first thought when I walked into the room was, 'Wow. I don't look like these people. It feels like I am meeting strangers. I could walk down the street in Korea and not think twice.' They happen to carry my genes and they made me, and then they gave me away. I still feel this disconnect that I am still trying to cope with."

Mayda is interested in connecting further with her birth family, but does note, "They live a $2,000 plane ticket away."

All of these feelings poured out in the creation of the new album, which was crafted in home studios, mainly by Mayda with some guest musicians.

"It hasn't helped to make sense of it, but it has helped me to release emotion. It definitely has spurred a lot of creativity. In that respect it is a great thing," Mayda said.

Beyond dealing with the emotions of meeting her family, the new album also features a rougher edge than the past. "A lot of the songs use one take. Sometimes you record one part over and over again, trying to perfect it. This time, it has been more of one take to get that feel. It is definitely more organic," Mayda said.

The artist is also stretching out in new directions, such as collaborating with Mu Performing Arts. The company, which explores the Asian-American experience in numerous ways, will work with Mayda to produce a piece to be performed in summer 2015.

"Randy (Reyes, the company's artistic director) had seen me perform a couple of times, and I had seen him in *M. Butterfly*. I was blown away when he asked me," Mayda said. "I have never acted before. I tried to be in plays all my life, but I have never gotten a part ever. Finding a character that would fit a small Asian girl is hard. I understand why I haven't gotten any parts."

"It's hard because I feel like I don't fit in the Twin Cities, musically. Everyone here is accepting, or they tolerate me. That's a good thing," Mayda said.

"I want people to like it and be happy and laugh and dance and cry. I want people to feel something. I really want people to come together. I want to connect with people. When they leave a show or listen, I want them to react, either loving it or hating it. I want to evoke an emotion," said Mayda.

And the artist isn't going away from music anytime soon. "Thank God I have music. I think I wouldn't be here or would be in jail. Music is a safe way for me to connect with reality and be sane," she said. ■







Drew Beson. Photo and hair/makeup by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

VOYEURISTIC ART
DREW BESON
REDEFINES CREATIVE SPACE

By Shane Lueck



Drew Beson. Photo and hair/makeup by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

"I don't do a lot of planning, but I do a lot of thinking and seeing." Drew Beson describes his creative process as an artist like a true "creative type."

In recent years, Beson has been published or written about in every major Twin Cities publication and has also had exhibitions at several galleries including The Minneapolis Institute of Art, Hennes Art Company, and Gallery 13. He has had solo exhibitions at galleries all over Minneapolis. Currently, you can find Drew making and exhibiting work at his new 4,800 square foot luxury studio/gallery combined space in the skyway level of Canadian Pacific Plaza in Downtown Minneapolis.

"I love having the best materials, so I splurge on those and make sure they are at the ready," he adds. "When I am painting, I listen to audiobooks through my headphones. I like to take my active brain out of the equation, and let my body and subconscious get to work. It allows me to paint effortlessly—akin to grass growing, without over-thinking." Beson jokes that he has the added benefit of ingesting nearly one hundred books each year.

Art is in Beson's blood. "I was made for this," he says. "I have been fearless about being a professional artist because of people like my Uncle Billy [local interior design superstar, Billy Beson]. He has been a great example of how a person can be incredibly successful by combining natural talent, artistic creativity, and passion."

At nine years old, showing incredible promise, Beson was offered a scholarship to study painting and drawing at a renowned atelier program in Excelsior, Minnesota. The years to follow were filled with travel to amazing destinations—deep sea fishing in Alaska, splashing on the beach in Hawaii, surfing in Australia and safaris in South Africa. In the years that followed, Beson studied studio art at St. Olaf College. During this time, Beson continued his travels and seized the opportunity to study art in New York, having interviewed 25 artists, and visited over 100 galleries and museums during his time there. Beson also studied art in Florence, Cortona, Siena, and Lucca, Italy, as well as London, England.

For Beson, who has studied art all over the world, inspiration is in everything. From the color palates and prints of women's dresses in Cape Town to the forms of diptychs and triptychs found in the cathedrals in Florence, Beson even takes note of his adventures scuba and skydiving at the Great Barrier Reef. "It has given me a better perspective on space and time and knowing that artwork will outlive us gives me pause about what I am producing," he says. "It also reminds me that it is alright to take a siesta every once in a while."

Hearing Beson talk about a siesta comes as a shock to anyone who hears him discuss his passion and sheer joy in creating art. Recognizing that canvas was the best way for him to work for a long time, Beson describes how he would paint on unstretched rolls on the ground, and stretch edited compositions that were promising.

"More recently, I have enjoyed painting on custom built panels; they allow me to use a ton of liquid and change the viscosity of the paint which would misbehave on canvas," he says. "The rigid nature of the panel also makes it possible to finish my most recent work with a hand-poured resin, which is finished with a blowtorch. It is super high gloss, and people love it because it makes the paint look 'juicy.'"

Showing off his artwork at the same location where he creates it, in a combined studio and gallery space, is quite unique. At first, Beson says his goal was to have a space to show his work beautifully. Setting up the gallery and spending a full day sitting and waiting for people to come in resulted in a restless Beson who felt he needed to get back to work.

"It became clear that to keep the gallery space open, and also be creating, I was going to have to make it happen at the gallery," he says. "People were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 96

interested and investing in my work, which gave me the confidence to make the space a permanent place to make and show my work."

Having a combined space should notably impact the creative or business side of Beson's work, right? According to the artist, he was much more aware of the fact that people were watching him in the beginning, but now it is just something that happens without much notice.

"Having people be able to see the pieces I am working on, materials I am using, and me making the work in real time adds a voyeuristic quality to the process," he adds. "My hours have become a little more moderate which has helped me get into better habits, which has helped me create a larger volume and quality of work. The more I make, the better the work has become. Business has been exciting with the combination of the gallery and studio. It is a formula that has led to a lot of interest, curiosity, and new collectors."

This voyeuristic aspect is nothing new to Beson, who, in June of 2008, spent 104 consecutive hours living and painting in a 9 x 31 glass room in the Minneapolis Skyway. He called it a "Live INstallation," entering at 9 am on a Monday morning and emerging at 5 pm on Friday evening. The news called it "live art to the extreme," but Drew considered it an exercise in focus. "With 30,000 people a day walking by you and your work, the feedback is instantaneous," says Beson.

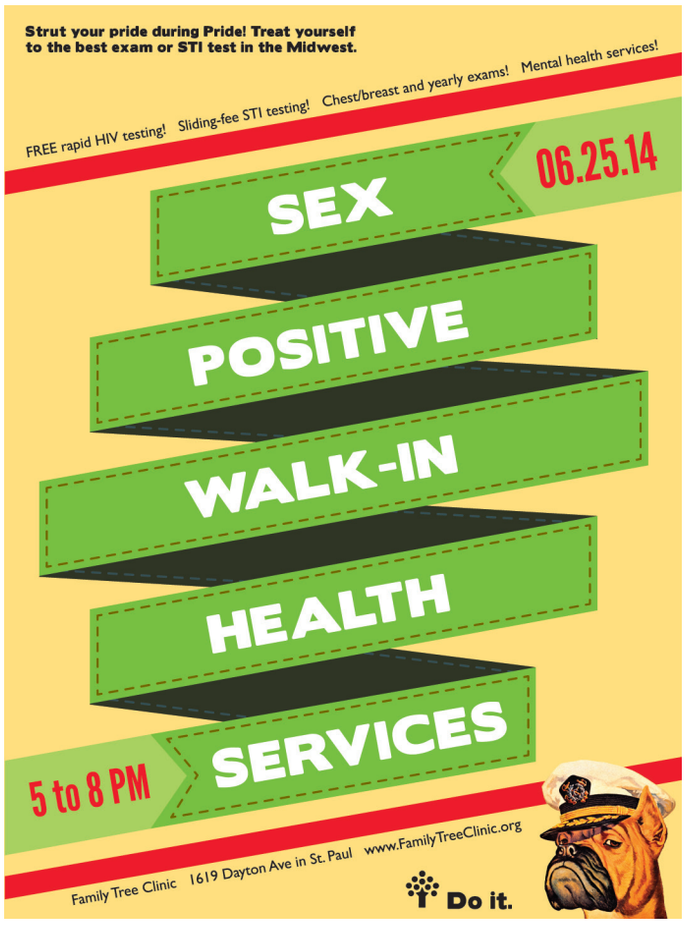
This was not Drew's first public art performance. He has also performed live on stage with musicians like The Invincible Kids and Mix-Master-Mike from the Beastie Boys. This type of behavior was ridiculous enough for Drew to be recognized as "The Best Party Addition in Minneapolis" by *Minnesota Monthly Magazine*.

"I liken it to the difference between putting on an improvisational play and creating a film: both come from a creative, genuine place, but sometimes the genius is in the building and sometimes he isn't," Beson says. "Most of the experiences on stage are alcohol-infused, dark, fast-paced with a soundtrack (like my past dating life). Now, I am able to control



Photos and hair/makeup by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios









the setting and the environment where the work is created which has resulted in better artwork."

In addition to his art, Beson has also been recognized for his philanthropic pursuits, such as his contributions to nonprofits, including the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Smile Network, Free Arts, and One Heartland. "My mom, Diane, always included my brother and me in her volunteering and charitable pursuits when we were kids; it was something that was important to her during her life, and has become important to me as well," Beson reflects. "I like finding creative ways to include nonprofits to help them get the recognition, awareness, and financial support that they deserve."

It is this same attention to detail and care for others that has resulted in Beson's unique Lifetime Return Policy which has art collectors very excited. Beson's gallery offers collectors free shipping of original artwork and the ability to return a painting next week or next decade for a credit toward a new piece.

"I am committed to making art for my life and I want collectors to have confidence when they invest in my work," he says. "I didn't set out to reinvent the rules of the fine art world, I just believe showcasing high quality artwork with an unusually generous return policy will result in very satisfied collectors."

Here's how it works: Enjoy an original piece of art for a lifetime. If not, return the painting within fourteen days of receipt for a full refund. Beyond that two week grace period, a refund will be in the form of gallery credit. Use the original packaging, or the gallery can supply a new custom box at cost. Drop it off at any UPS store or the gallery will coordinate a pick-up either at home or the office. Only one condition: the artwork must be in its original condition.

What makes Beson show such care to his customers? According to him, it's simple. "I love my collectors, and I owe them everything. I can do this because I know that the artwork that I make has the highest quality materials, and I want to make certain that they enjoy their artwork forever." ■



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Aerial Skyline. Photo courtesy of Visit Baltimore

GOOD MORNING, BALTIMORE

By Carla Waldemar

History gets a grip on you here. But this is not the dreary stuff of high school textbooks; it's like attending a family reunion, where grandpa shows off his Army medals and grandma shares tales about when the kids were little. Except the kids we're talking about here were the founders and defenders of that new nation called the United States.

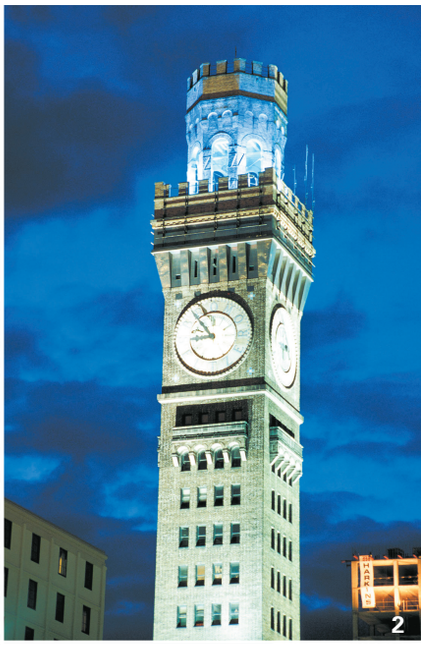
Get over it, D.C., with all your marble monuments. Baltimore, its nearby cousin, is the patriots' beating heart. Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and arguably the wealthiest man in the country, lived here (tour his mansion). The action stepped up during the War of 1812, when seamstress Mary Pickersgill was assigned the task of stitching a flag for Baltimore's Fort McHenry, under siege by the Brits. The banner she delivered—an awesome 42 x 30 foot flag (tour her house with the repro)—taunted the King's navy with a feisty "gotcha." When spotted by local poet Francis Scott Key, he gasped, "O say can you see…." His original manuscript is on view at the Maryland Historical Society, along with John Hancock's John Hancock on a commission, a letter by General Washington in his spidery hand, and the legendary Peale family paintings of Army greats.

Segueing to the Civil War, the Society showcases photo journalist Matthew Brady's groundbreaking shots of war casualties. And Baltimore's significant mark on history kicks in again. Straddling the Mason-Dixon line, it was a city divided, fueling the 1861 riot as Union troops transferred from one railroad station (now the Civil War Museum) to another (now in Camden yards, where the Orioles play, overseen by a statue of homeboy hitter Babe Ruth), resulting in the first casualties of the War Between the States.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 99



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1. Sports Legends at Camden Yards; 2. Baltimore Bromo Tower; 3. Little Italy; 4. Baltimore Reginald F. Lewis Museum; 5. Baltimore Museum of Art; 6. Baltimore Hampden.
Photos courtesy of Visit Baltimore



3



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4

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(Left) Baltimore Water Taxi; Baltimore Pier Six Concert Pavillon. Photos courtesy of Visit Baltimore

Baltimore was a hub of the Underground Railroad, for courageous Harriet Tubman lived here, as did Black abolitionist Frederick Douglass, whose stories—and those of countless enslaved people—are revealed in the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, which details African American history, beginning with slave ships docking in the harbor. Josiah Herson, the model for Uncle Tom, was born nearby. Yet by 1840, Baltimore also boasted more free Blacks than any state in the nation—shipbuilders, sports heroes, medical professionals, and music makers like Billie Holiday and Eubie Blake. In fact, in 1937 the police force hired its first African American—Violet Whyte, known as the "Law Lady."

The Maritime Museum on the gorgeous, camera-ready Inner Harbor (reclaimed from grunge to glamor in the Seventies) unravels history's story aboard ships. The Constellation of 1854—a Man o' War used to catch slave ships leaving Africa—was the last sail ship in the Navy. A submarine nearby survived Pearl Harbor. Then hop a water taxi and chug off to yet another enticing neighborhood, like Federal Hill, where a huge 15-star flag still flies. Below it, the amazing—a-mazing!—Museum of Visionary Art captures the creativity of untrained "folk" artists. Outside its mirror-mosaic facade twirls a giant whirligig, while atop the doorway a sculpted biker chick guns a souped-up Harley. Wonders continue: busts fashioned from spare piano parts; a life-size Isaac Stern-cum-violin of matchsticks; a crocheted hobby horse; a bearded man conceived of telephone wire.

Geppi's Entertainment Museum, at the ballpark, captures fun antics of another sort—life-size Batman and Superman supervising a collection of social history in the form of movie posters, comic books, Disney figures, Popeye and Lone Ranger games, on through Barbie and G.I. Joe to *Star Wars* collectibles as commentary on their times.

Bounce onto a water taxi or ride the wonderful Charm City Circulator buses—free, free, free!—to the other side of the harbor, where immigrants landed and launched Little Italy. (And Little Italy launched Nancy Pelosi, whose father served as mayor. "I learned politics around the dinner table," says the Speaker of the House.) Today this working class enclave is splashed with red-sauce restaurants like a Sabatino's, where I dined amidst *tutta la famiglia* on Mother's Day, more holy to Italians than Christmas.

Little Italy seeps into Fells Point, the city's oldest 'hood, lined with paving bricks and door stoops brought from the Old World as ships' ballast. Today tidy brick row-houses host indie shops and eateries like Duda's Tavern, where its fifth-generation proprietors serve, they claim, the best crab cakes in Maryland. (I won't dispute it, after a go at the filler-free lump meat.) The condiment of choice is a glass of Natty Boh (National Bohemian). Only in Baltimore.

A three-hour, belt-busting Charm City food tour of Fells Point led me from Ze Mean Bean (a bad name for this sweet, uber-Polish café majoring in pierogi and potato pancakes), to Hungry Andy's, where you won't be after his horseradish-licked roast beef sandwich, then Tapas Adela, where spicy chickpeas, patatas bravas, and meatballs laced with manchego cheese and almonds filled the bill. One Eyed Mike's—the only Grand Marnier bar in the U.S., in case you're keeping track—plies guests with its addictive Maryland crab soup.

I peeled away just in time for dinner at Fleet Street Kitchen, where locovores feast on treats like foie gras with brioche pudding and rhubarb-black pepper ice cream. Pork belly slithers over summer beans and roasted fennel in a purée of smoked tomatoes, while short ribs partner with creamed spinach and red currants. The amuse du jour was a single infant carrot atop a schmear of fennel goat cheese. All BTG wines available in half portions, too: talk about user-friendly.

Or head to the harbor's Waterfront Kitchen, a seed-to-table dining room divine, where a baby kale Caesar stole my heart with its Maryland oyster dressing, preceding a goat cheese terrine jeweled with asparagus, while a chicken liver mousse was spiked by pickled cauliflower with a kick. Proceed to Chesapeake Bay black bass, then Maryland strawberry shortcake.

Back at the Inner Harbor, Miss Shirley's (recommended by my taxi driver, who knew what he was talking about), served me a three-fer lunch of sliders: pulled chicken with pimento cheese; smoked bacon with cheddar; and spinach/roasted red peppers in goat cheese, served with a wicked side of bacon-centric grits. Locals sprinkle on the Old Bay powder. But then, they do that on everything, from fries to martini rims. Pass the shaker and call me 'hon.'

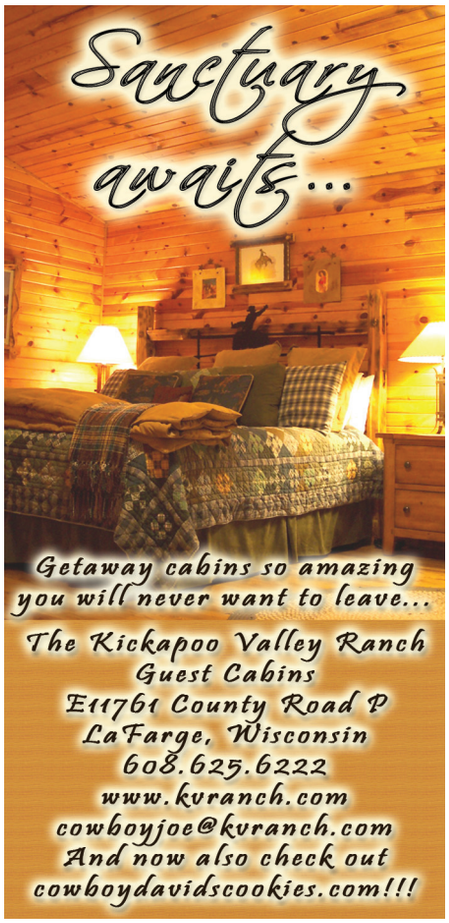
Which reminds me: *Hairspray*'s John Waters is a native. So are Johns Hopkins (this hospital rivals the Mayo Clinic) and Edgar Allen Poe.

Board the Circulator north to Mount Vernon, the city's cultural heart, anchored by mansions-turned-museums like the Walters, corralling a world history of art from Egypt and Rome through Hindu gods of India, Muslim scrolls of Iran, and Ethiopian and Russian icons, to a trio of medieval Virgins (Spanish, French, and German) warily eying each other over their somber babes. Across the street, the fancy ironwork of the Peabody Library guards its grand collage of books.

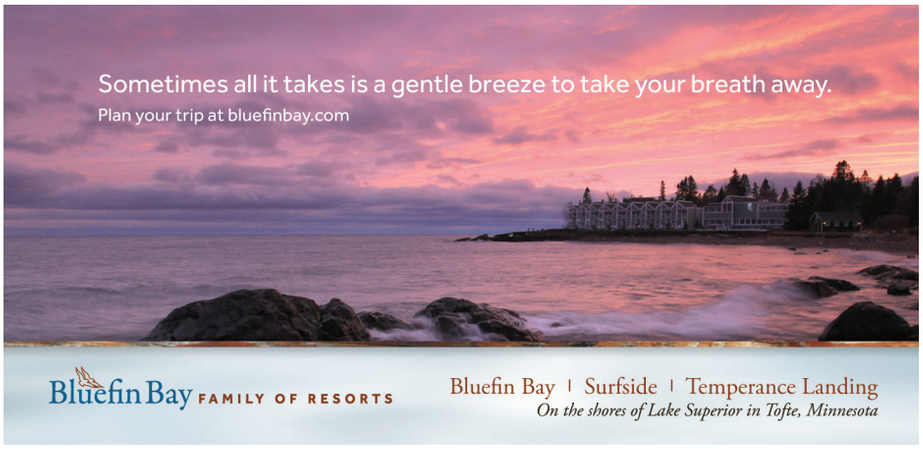
The Visitors Center on the Inner Harbor offers not only all the info you can think of, but also daily guided walking tours of the city's historic neighborhoods (or brochures to self-guide). To get started, visit www.baltimore.org and www.GLCCB.org, geared to the gay scene. ■

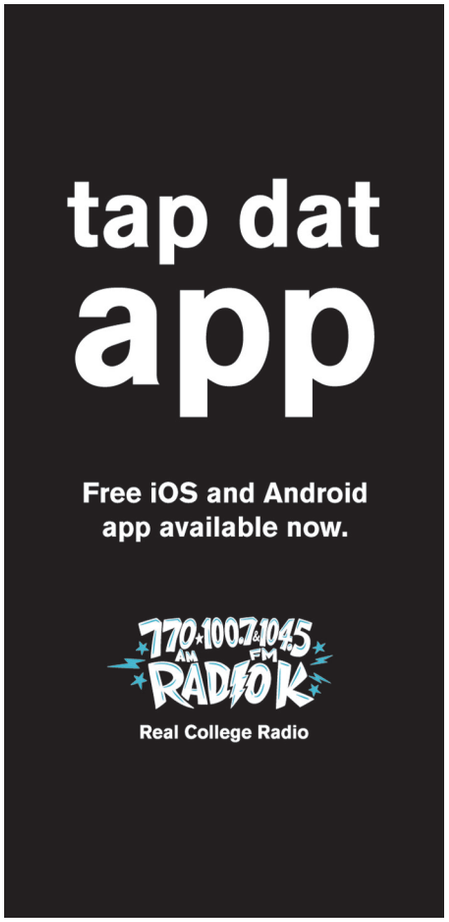
END NOTE

B'More QFest in June celebrates films by GLBT filmmakers. Pride, a ten-day extravaganza, began in 1975. This year, 5,000 celebrants are expected, beginning June 13 with Twilight on the Terrace, a prime-time cocktail party at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Saturday, June 14 leads off with the High Heel Race and the Parade, followed by the Block Party. Sunday features the Festival, with a drag stage, food and drink, and a line-up of entertainment (www.Baltimorepride.org).


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PLAYING FOR THE OTHER TEAM: PRIDE IN OUR SPORTS

By Nell Gelhaus

My groom's dinner (Nellsdinner?), despite Minneapolis's first tornado watch of the season, fortunately went according to plan. Guests spilled out onto our porch during rain-free moments, bridesmaids mingled with long-time friends, nieces and nephews ran muddily around the yard, and the Nellsmen, Dads, and I sat huddled in the corner hovered over our smartphones, pretending not to follow the NFL draft.

Clinton-Dix to the Packers! My Wisconsin relatives cheered! Bridgewater to the Vikes. Dang, well played, my friends. Michael Sam to the Rams! History is made! (If he can make the team—good move on postponing his reality series, Oprah. Let him focus on football first.)

After a whirlwind three weeks of weddings and parties and honeymoons and hoopla, I find myself more than a little relieved to be sitting scouring sports blogs like I'm supposed to. Ah, routine. All is well in the world again. One of my favorite weeks is right around the corner, and I'll soon be able to break out my rainbow suspenders! And as this issue should make clear, there's much to celebrate this Pride Season, especially in the world of sports. Here are three worthy examples.

MILL CITY HOOPS

The newly minted Mill City Hoops Basketball League will debut Saturday, June 28th in Loring Park with a Shirts and Skins 3-on-3 basketball tournament. The Twin Cities hasn't been home to a GLBT-centric basketball league in approximately five years, and Mill City Hoops hopes to fill that void, at least for gay men and straight male allies.

The mission of the league is three-fold: To foster community pride, support healthy lifestyle choices, and nurture and grow Minneapolis's national reputation. League events will include the Pride Week Shirts and Skins Tournament (which currently consists of twelve teams and will feature a DJ, half-time entertainment, hosts, and a film crew) as well as a 5-on-5 Full Court League that will run from November to March. In addition to the local teams, Mill City Hoops plans to send Minneapolis-sponsored teams to the National Gay Basketball Association (NGBA) tournaments, with the desire to host a national tournament in Minneapolis in the coming years.

Brian Woolsey, the Managing Director of Mill City Hoops, explained his reason for bringing gay basketball back to the Cities, and it's pretty simple:

"I love basketball. I've met most of my best friends playing and wanted to make that experience available to more people."

I asked Brian how he envisioned the league adding to Minneapolis's nationwide visibility. "Two ways," he replied. "First, I hope to send Mill City Hoops teams to national gay tournaments and bring back some hardware! Second, following a successful launch, we intend to turn our attention to hosting a national gay tournament here in Minneapolis. How fun would that be?"



Mill City Hoops. Photo by Michael Mingo

With the understanding that many sports leagues can be difficult to sustain, Mill City Hoops has been reaching out to businesses and corporations and have thus far had a positive response. Citing Gallup studies in the sponsorship materials on engaged and healthy workforces which result in increased productivity, the league has a number of sponsors looking to add their name to the Mill City brand.

They seek to use the league as a platform for members to inspire one another, and younger athletes, to live healthy lives, reach their full potential, and showcase Minneapolis to the community.

Woolsey states what he sees as one of the main differences between Mill City Hoops and other rec leagues:

"This is not a beer bust league. We're promoting healthy life choices: exercise, eating right, etc."

Interested players can still sign up for the Pride tournament by contacting Mill City Hoops via their Facebook page, and can also inquire about the 5-on-5 league. Currently the plan is to organize two 5-on-5 leagues: one for competitive players (high school experience or better) and one for recreational players (all skill levels). Sign-up for each will be in the fall and the location of games is still to be determined.

WOMEN'S PRIDE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The men aren't the only ones making the most of Pride weekend with a little healthy competition. What began as a handful of lesbians getting together to golf on the Saturday morning of Pride has grown into one of Pride Weekend's best kept secrets. Michelle Boie began organizing a golf outing with a friend eight years ago and is now herself coordinating and hosting *90 golfers* for a day of shenanigans at the Theodore Wirth Par 3 Golf Course in Golden Valley.

However, the Masters it purposefully is not,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 104


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Michelle Boie. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

and Tiger Woods might not even stand a chance against these women.

"This is not your normal kind of golf!"

Boie devises something new and fun at every hole. Past surprises include teeing off blindfolded or with a lacrosse stick "lob" toward the green, or maybe opposite-handed or with a marshmallow replacing the golf ball. And then there are the putting challenges. Sometimes they'd use a wobbly putter, or a pool stick or otherwise modified club. She includes other games for prizes as well, like a softball throw with a golf ball to see who has the best arm.

"The golf course has been very accommodating, as we have held this tournament there for the past eight years. With 90 golfers, you can imagine 10 players on each hole, so therefore, we play best ball, have a shotgun start and there are 2 golfers per cart. We start at 11:00am and we are done by 2:30pm. The Par 3 closes for us from 9:30am to 2:30pm, and we get our own 2 beer cart girls. What more could a girl ask for?"

Invites for the tournament have always gone out through Facebook, first to those that have golfed in the past who then forward the invite to their friends. Due to course restraints, Boie limits the number to 90 total golfers, though it is open to all ages and abilities (and already at capacity this year).

"I have some great golfers and then I have some women that show up that have no idea how to hold a club. We share a lot of laughs, enjoy the weather, and come together to celebrate Pride."

After a day on the green, they head to a local bar for food and drinks, and prizes are handed out to the day's winners.

Why does she go through the effort year after year?

"I have been told from many of my friends that this is their favorite thing to do during Pride weekend. It makes me smile knowing that I am doing something great for everyone!"

MINNESOTA LYNX/WNBA PRIDE

While amateur athletes in the Cities are finding ways to display their Pride in June, the best professional team in town is also getting a boost of support from their league during Pride month. The WNBA has announced a special marketing campaign specifically aimed at the GLBT community, finally making the most of the fact we've been aware of for years. Lesbians dig watching women play basketball. Attend any Minnesota Lynx game and you'll find your proof.

With this effort, the WNBA becomes the first professional sports league to specifically market to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community with a national platform (presented by COVERGIRL) celebrating inclusion and equality.

WNBA President Laurel J. Richie states, "The WNBA welcomes all fans, athletes, and partners to our game. These beliefs unite the 12 teams of the WNBA and we are very excited to introduce the WNBA Pride platform which celebrates acceptance and inclusion. The WNBA takes great pride in working with extraordinary partners who share these values, and we are so grateful to our presenting partner COVERGIRL along with

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WNBA President Laurel J. Richie.
Photo by Sophia Hantzes

ESPN, GLSEN and GLAAD for joining the WNBA on this important initiative."

One of the campaign's first acts was to debut a new website, WNBA.com/pride, which includes league and team Pride content, events, and schedules. Information will also be shared via social media with the hashtag #wnbapride. In addition, WNBA teams will host Pride-themed games throughout June with players donning commemorative Pride shooting shirts. **The Minnesota Lynx Pride night will be Friday, June 20th.**

The WNBA vows to continue working with a number of leading GLBT community-based organizations, including GLSEN, GLAAD, and Athlete Ally with the hopes of raising awareness of inclusion through public service campaigns and other local activities such as local GLBT Pride festivals and parades.

"Some of my favorite memories are courtside with my wife and kids cheering on our favorite WNBA teams. For years, the WNBA has been a leading force in building support for equality on the court and in the stands," said GLAAD President & CEO Sarah Kate Ellis. "The WNBA Pride platform will raise the bar in helping to end anti-LGBT bias in sports, while also celebrating the tremendous value LGBT athletes and fans bring to the game."

Other notable aspects of the campaign include the Fifth Annual LogoTV/AfterEllen Score Your Seats Sweepstakes, where fans will have the opportunity to win a trip to a WNBA Finals game and advertising with lesbian-targeted outlets.

"Every day in the news we see that inclusion is the new standard for our society, and every day we see more and more people reject prejudice and anything that would divide us," said Phoenix Mercury Center Brittney Griner. "I'm proud to be a part of the WNBA and NBA family that has chosen to embrace the LGBT community, not just for the out athletes like me, but also the allies and fans who love them."

The Lynx, of course, have been marketing to our local GLBT community for years, and with lesbian athletes Seimone Augustus, Rebekkah Brunson, and Janel McCarville playing a large part in the outreach. Be sure to give them your support on Pride Night, June 20th along with Lavender Mag! We'll see you there! ■



TWO BARS NEAREST PRIDE FESTIVAL HOST WEEKEND FUN

By George Holdgrafer

19 BAR

This year, Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain marked the 62nd anniversary of her accession to the throne. As well, the venerable 19 Bar in Minneapolis, with an iconic portrait of the monarch on its north wall, observed its 62nd anniversary as the oldest local GLBT establishment. Just two blocks east of Loring Park, the 19 has expanded hours for Pride, from 3 PM to 2 AM on Friday, June 27, and from Noon to 2 AM on Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29. Party with a capacity crowd on the spacious and beautiful outdoor patio in back of the bar, or shoot a game at three pool tables inside.

LORING KITCHEN & BAR

Right across from the east side of Loring Park, the Loring Kitchen & Bar in Minneapolis celebrates its fifth anniversary this year. Its Pride Fest will be in full swing with music and dancing on the outdoor stage. DJs on Saturday, June 28, are Keith Millions (Noon-2 PM), Bach (2-4 PM), Soviet Panda (4-7 PM), and Espada (7-10 PM). DJs on Sunday, June 29, are Mike 2600 and Espada (Noon-6 PM). Enjoy outdoor food on the grill (hot dogs, burgers, and ribs), along with Ketel One and Jameson drink specials, starting at 9 AM on Saturday and 10 AM on Sunday. All this and no cover (18+). ■

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Photos By George Holdgrafer

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MINNESOTA LEATHER PRIDE INVITES YOU TO "FLY YOUR FLAG"

By Steve Lenius



Photo by Steve Lenius

Leather Pride events expand beyond June and beyond Twin Cities

The theme of the 2014 Minnesota Leather Pride celebration is "Fly your flag." This year's theme is incorporated into the design of this year's collectible Minnesota Leather Pride dog tag (see right). This year's theme also will be collectively expressed by community members as they carry Minnesota's giant leather pride flag in the Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade up Hennepin Avenue on Sunday, June 29.

The first Minnesota Leather Pride event, held in the early 1990s, was one single Sunday-afternoon gathering where members of the leather community socialized after marching in the Twin Cities GLBT Pride Parade. From that humble beginning, Minnesota's annual Leather Pride celebration has grown over the years into one of the biggest leather-pride celebrations in the U.S., with a wide array of events stretching over three weeks in June.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 112



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Now the Minnesota Leather Pride celebration is growing even bigger. This year, the board of the Minnesota Leather Pride organization has had two goals: to expand beyond June by having quarterly events throughout the year, and to expand geographically beyond the Twin Cities.

The first quarterly Minnesota Leather Pride event was an afternoon-long workshop on "BDSM and Creativity" held in January (and covered in this column in *Lavender* issue #490, March 6, 2014). Upcoming quarterly events include a "Family Feud" of local leather clubs this coming autumn, as well as a Minnesota Leather Sir/Minnesota Leatherboy contest (part of the International Leather Sir/Leatherboy title system) in April 2015.

As part of its geographic expansion, Minnesota Leather Pride will be represented at this year's Capital City Pride, June 6-8 in Des Moines, Iowa. Minnesota Leather Pride will share a booth at Capital City Pride with two leather clubs, the Corn Haulers Leather and Levi Club of Iowa and the Titans of the Midwest. Minnesota Leather Pride also will be visible at Fargo/Moorhead Pride on August 16, and possibly other regional pride festivals as well.

Listed below are details, at the time of this writing, for most of this year's Minnesota Leather Pride events. Other events may be added to the schedule; for the most current event details visit MNLeatherPride.org or follow "Minnesota Leather Pride" on Facebook.

Leather Pride Fashion Show: A Grimm Fairy Tale
Friday, June 13, 8 P.M., Camp Bar, St. Paul
Fantasy and sex meet fairy tale characters in the kick-off event of this year's Leather Pride celebration. Admission is $8 with a 2014 Minnesota Leather Pride dog tag (or $10 without a dog tag).

Kink U Master Class: Dom/sub Discussion
Saturday, June 14, 1-4 P.M., Twin Cities Leather & Latte
An interactive discussion of the dynamics and challenges of Dominant/submissive relationships. Open to those who identify as Dom, sub, switch or none of the above. Presented by Titans of the Midwest.

Bondage Slam
Sunday, June 15, 1:30-4:30 P.M., Patrick's Cabaret
Come to participate or just to watch. Different categories of bondage on display will include duct tape, fashion, rope, hankie code (bondage using hankies), and "fly your flag" (i.e. anything goes). There will also be a few surprise categories announced at the event. Participants will determine their method and execution of bondage. Three judges will award prizes for best of categories and best overall. Admission is $5 with a 2014 Minnesota Leather Pride dog tag (or $7 without a dog tag). Presented by MSDB.

You Say Kink, I Say Leather, Part 2
Thursday, June 19, 7 P.M., Camp Bar, St. Paul
Continuing a discussion that started last November, this will be an open discussion about the leather and kink communities—where they overlap and where they differ. Presented by PEPRMNT.

Two Seminars: "Customs, Conventions and Protocols" and "The Art of Flogging"
Saturday, June 21, 1-4 P.M., Bondesque (707 W. Lake St.)
"Customs, Conventions and Protocols" will discuss ways of integrating these three concepts into alternative-lifestyle relationships. "The Art of Flogging" will cover everything from making your own flogger to using a flogger to create erotic pleasure with maximum effect. Admission is $7 with a 2014 Minnesota Leather Pride dog tag (or $10 without a dog tag). Presented by Leather Journey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 114





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Leather Pride Motorcycle Ride
Sunday, June 22, 10 A.M., meet at 1610 Harmon Place
Presented by Knights of Leather.

Reading and Exhibition: The 8th Annual Leather Pride Anthology
Monday, June 23, 7-9 P.M., The Saloon
An evening of locally created kinky poetry, art, short fiction and photography. Authors will read from their works; art and photography will be displayed; and printed copies of the Anthology will be available for purchase. Presented by the BDSM Creative Collective.

Leather Pride Swap Meet
Tuesday, June 24, 7-9 P.M. (vendor setup begins 6:30 P.M.), Camp Bar, St. Paul
Vendors can swap as well as sell their items. No charge to attend, mingle, swap, or negotiate a sale; $5 per vendor table or space. Presented by MAsT (Masters And slaves Together), Twin Cities chapter.

Cigar Smoker
Thursday, June 26, 8-11 P.M., Eagle/BOLT Bar (patio)
Bring your favorite cigar; enjoy a summer evening on the patio with smoke and conversation. Presented by the Atons of Minneapolis.

Floggapalooza
Friday, June 27
Get your Pride Weekend off to a flogging good start at Floggapalooza. At this writing, event time and location are still being determined; check MNLeatherPride.org or Facebook for details.

Minnesota Leather Pride booth at the Twin Cities Pride Festival
Saturday, June 28, 9 A.M.-5 P.M., Loring Park
When you visit the Pride Festival, be sure your visit includes a stop at the Minnesota Leather Pride booth.

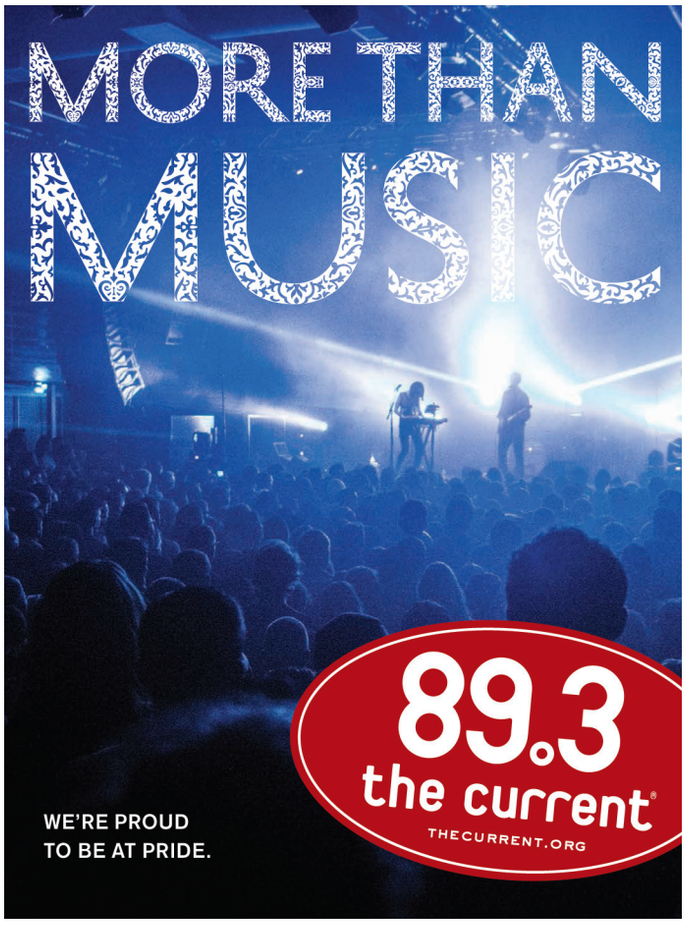
Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade: Leather Flag March
Sunday, June 29, meet before 11 A.M. at 3rd St. & Hennepin Ave.
"Fly your flag" as you march with members of the Minnesota leather/BDSM/fetish community and help carry Minnesota's giant leather pride flag. Parade steps off at 11 A.M.

Minnesota Leather Pride booth at the Twin Cities Pride Festival
Sunday, June 29, 9 A.M.-5 P.M., Loring Park
After the parade, visit the Minnesota Leather Pride booth as you spend the afternoon in Loring Park at the Pride Festival. ■

END NOTE

2014 Minnesota Leather Pride Dog Tag: "Fly your flag" by wearing your 2014 Minnesota Leather Pride dog tag, the latest in a long and distinguished line. This year's dog tag also gets you discounts at certain Minnesota Leather Pride events (see the event schedule). Get yours for $7 while supplies last at participating businesses (see MNLeatherPride.org or Facebook for details) and at Minnesota Leather Pride events. Dog tags will also be available for $10 at the Minnesota Leather Pride booth in Loring Park during the Pride Festival.





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QUORUM SECTION

Quorum's 2014 Community Leadership Awards



2014 Quorum Business of the Year: Kim Bartmann of The Bartmann Restaurant Group. Presented by 2013 recipient Dean Schlaak of The Wilde Roast.



2014 Quorum Non-Profit of the Year: Janet Bystrom of RECLAIM.



2014 Quorum Business Leader of the Year: Richard Herod III - GM of White Bear Mitsubishi. Presented by 2013 recipient Roya Moltaji of MetLife.



2014 Quorum Inclusion Leader of the Year: Marcus Waterbury of Morgan Stanley. Presented by 2013 recipient Susan Raffo of PFund



Thank you to our Master of Ceremonies: Sam McClure of the NGLCC.



2014 Quorum Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: Barbara Satin. Presented by 2013 recipient Harvey Zuckman.

Twin Cities Quorum wants to congratulate all of this year award recipients, and thank last year recipients for presenting awards to these amazing people and organizations in our community! Twin Cities Quorum also thanks our event sponsor: Morgan Stanley



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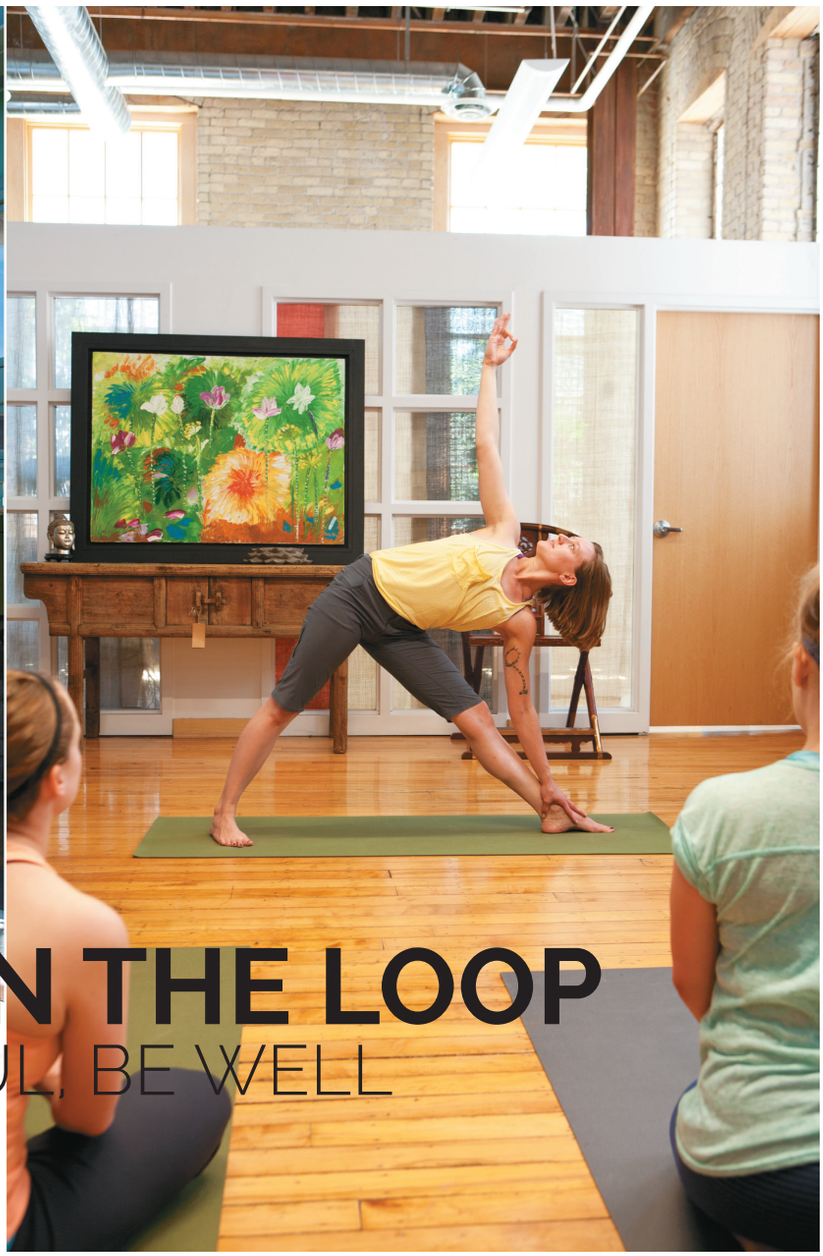
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Q Quorum Section

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JEROMEO IN THE LOOP
BE MINDFUL, BE WELL

"A place that speaks to your soul." Photos by Hubert Bonnet

By Kathleen Watson

When you think of your health, what comes to mind? Do you think about being physically fit? Do you think about the long hours you should spend at the gym or how your diet (or lack thereof) affects your day? These aspects of health—exercise and diet—tend to get the majority of our attention due to our fast-paced lifestyle. But a large component of health is wellness—creating a balance between mind, body, and spirit—and finding that balance is just as important as maintaining a healthy fitness and diet regimen. In order to achieve this sense of well-being, a different approach to physical activity is needed. Forget the gyms—head to a place that speaks to your soul! At Jeromeo Curiosity Shoppe and Wellness Center, located conveniently in the North Loop neighborhood, there are countless opportunities to improve your wellness and become more connected with your body, mind, and spirit.

Jeromeo is a boutique and yoga center unlike any other. Owner Scott Johnson first opened Jeromeo on Nicollet Mall in 2004 as a curiosity shoppe, selling handmade jewelry, local pottery, antiques, body care, and other artisanal products from around the world. After a recent relocation in July of 2013 to a renovated North Loop factory, Johnson was able to incorporate even more of his favorite things into his business model—yoga, massage, and handcrafted goods. Johnson states, "The yoga and massage portions of the business are just who I am. It's something that I've been doing for as long as I remember, something I've always wanted to do."

The new location has allowed Johnson to focus more on mind and body services—services that encourage clients to be mindful about their lives. Johnson notes, "In general, people who are stressed out mentally are stressed out physically. You can worry yourself sick all the time. People know that, but they don't necessarily do anything about it because they don't know what to do. We hope that coming here will help people balance those two, and to help them figure out what they can do (bodywork, stretching, yoga) to balance their lives and not be stressed out."

One way to improve overall wellness and to become more aware of your mind-body connection is through the practice of yoga. In addition to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 122



Scott Johnson.



"It's a beautiful, creative, relaxing space."

being an excellent activity for improving strength and flexibility, yoga allows participants to focus on the connection between mind and body. Unlike many corporate yoga studios, Jeromeo yoga classes focus strongly on the practice of yoga and being mindful in that practice.

Jeromeo offers several different types of yoga classes throughout the week, including Beginning Yoga, Vinyasa Yoga, Fitness Yoga, and "Candlelite Yoga." All classes are geared toward all levels of yogis, and they are taught by certified instructors who strive to meet each individual at their own personal levels. Johnson notes, "It means more personal connection to the instructor and each other, instead of an in-and-out structure." Held in studios with high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows, these classes allow participants to work toward mindfulness in a beautiful and inspiring setting.

Johnson also encourages people to experience yoga through special events that incorporate yoga, local music, food, and art. On the second Wednesday of every month, Johnson holds a Yoga Fusion event, where members and the general public can meet to do yoga, listen to local musicians, share a tea tasting, and mingle with others. These free events foster a strong sense of community among the studio attendees, and allow newcomers to experience the relaxed and inspiring atmosphere of Jeromeo. Johnson adds, "It's a lot different from what you expect and what you're used to. There are a lot of places that are much more cookie-cutter. It's a beautiful, creative, relaxing space."

Jeromeo also offers bodywork services to help people unwind and become more in tune

CONTINUED ON PAGE 124

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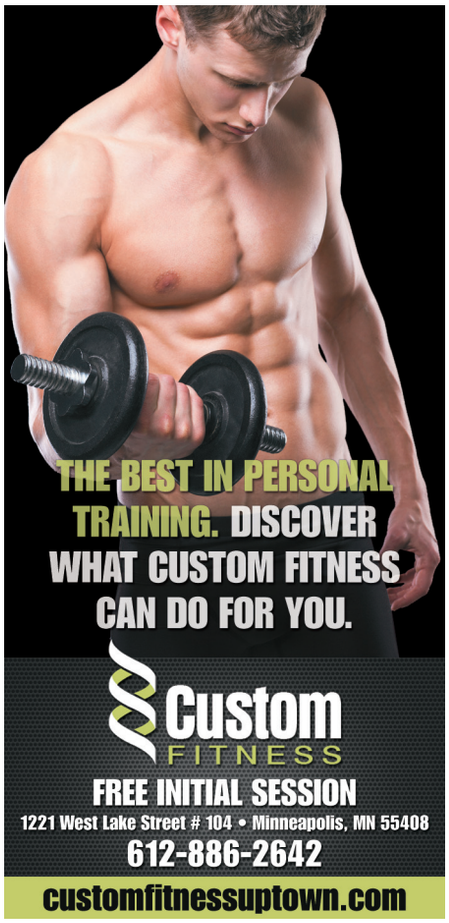
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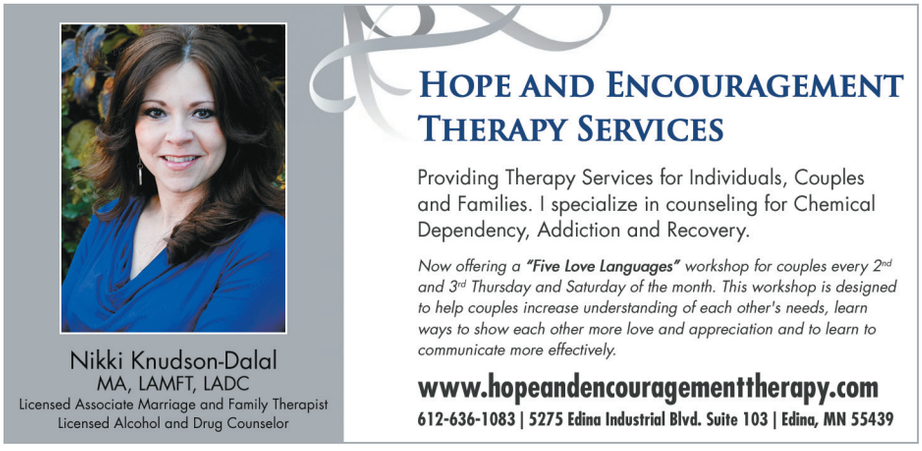


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Another way to improve your sense of well-being is to take time to appreciate beautiful, creative things. Jeromeo's Curiosity Shoppe contains something for everyone; from a seemingly endless amount of essential oils and body products to artifacts from around the world (and just around the corner), you'll find something that makes your day a bit more positive. Johnson plays a large role in selecting every item in the store's catalog; he discovers and acquires unique items while traveling the world, and he handcrafts a large portion of the jewelry sold in the shoppe as well. Johnson's attention to detail and his eye for exceptional craftsmanship make each item in the store a treasure to behold.

In addition to the pieces of art in the Curiosity Shoppe, Jeromeo also acts as an art gallery for artwork from around the world. Currently on display is the Arts of Vietnam show, featuring lacquer paintings by four Vietnamese artists and a collection of Vietnamese gongs. The artwork will be on display until June 21 in the Jeromeo studios.

Next time you need a break from the hustle and bustle of the city, skip the gym and step through Jeromeo's doors. Marvel at artwork from around the world. Peruse the beautiful items in the Curiosity Shoppe. Find your breath at a yoga class. Just press "pause" on the busy world around you, and restore the balance in your life.

For more information about Jeromeo Curiosity Shoppe and Wellness Center, to book a bodywork appointment, or to view yoga class schedules, visit www.jeromeo.com. New yoga students receive one free week of yoga, and their first month of unlimited yoga for $39. Other pricing packages are available based on frequency of attendance. ■





"Johnson's attention to detail and his eye for exceptional craftsmanship make each item in the store a treasure to behold."

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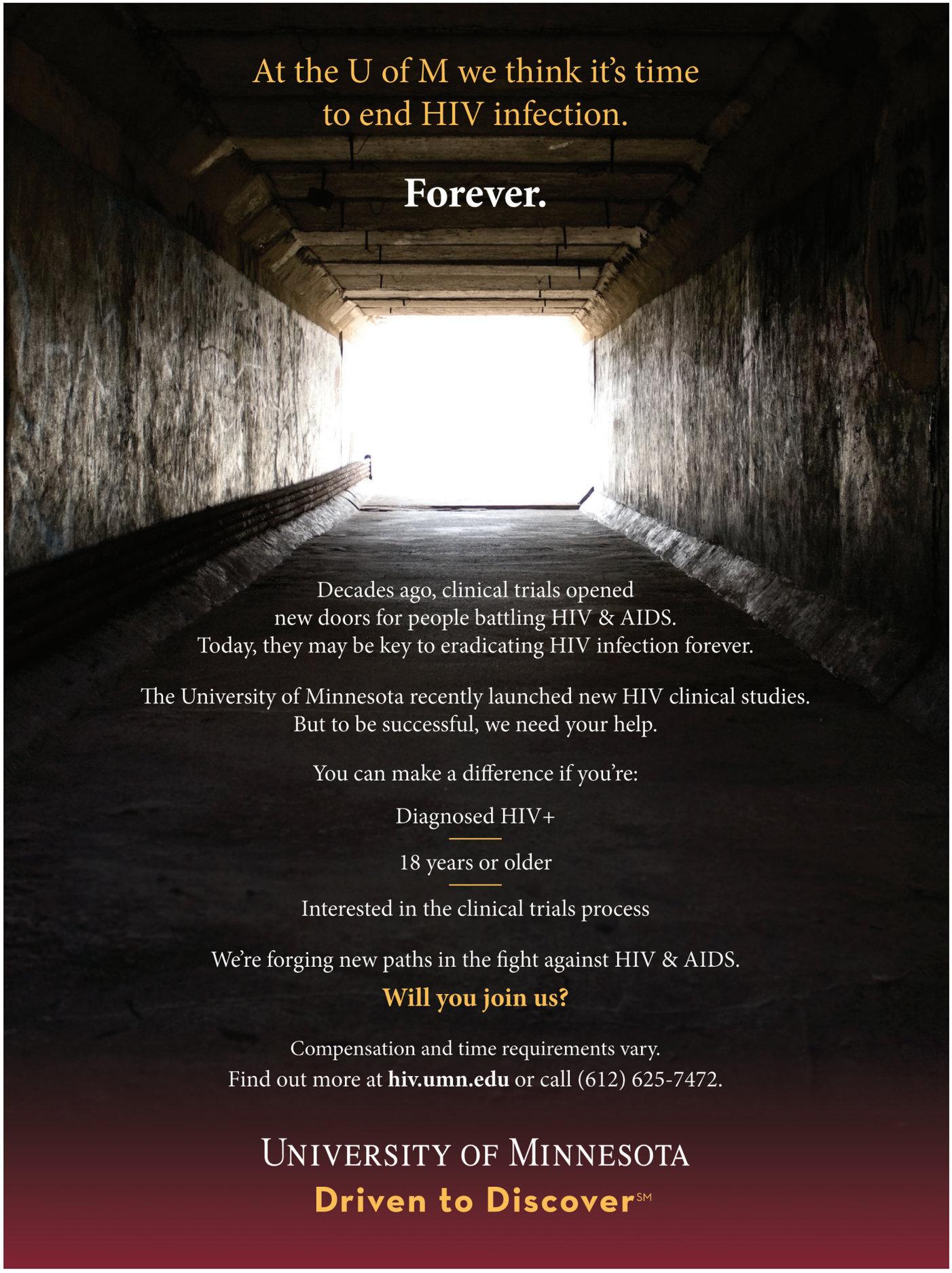
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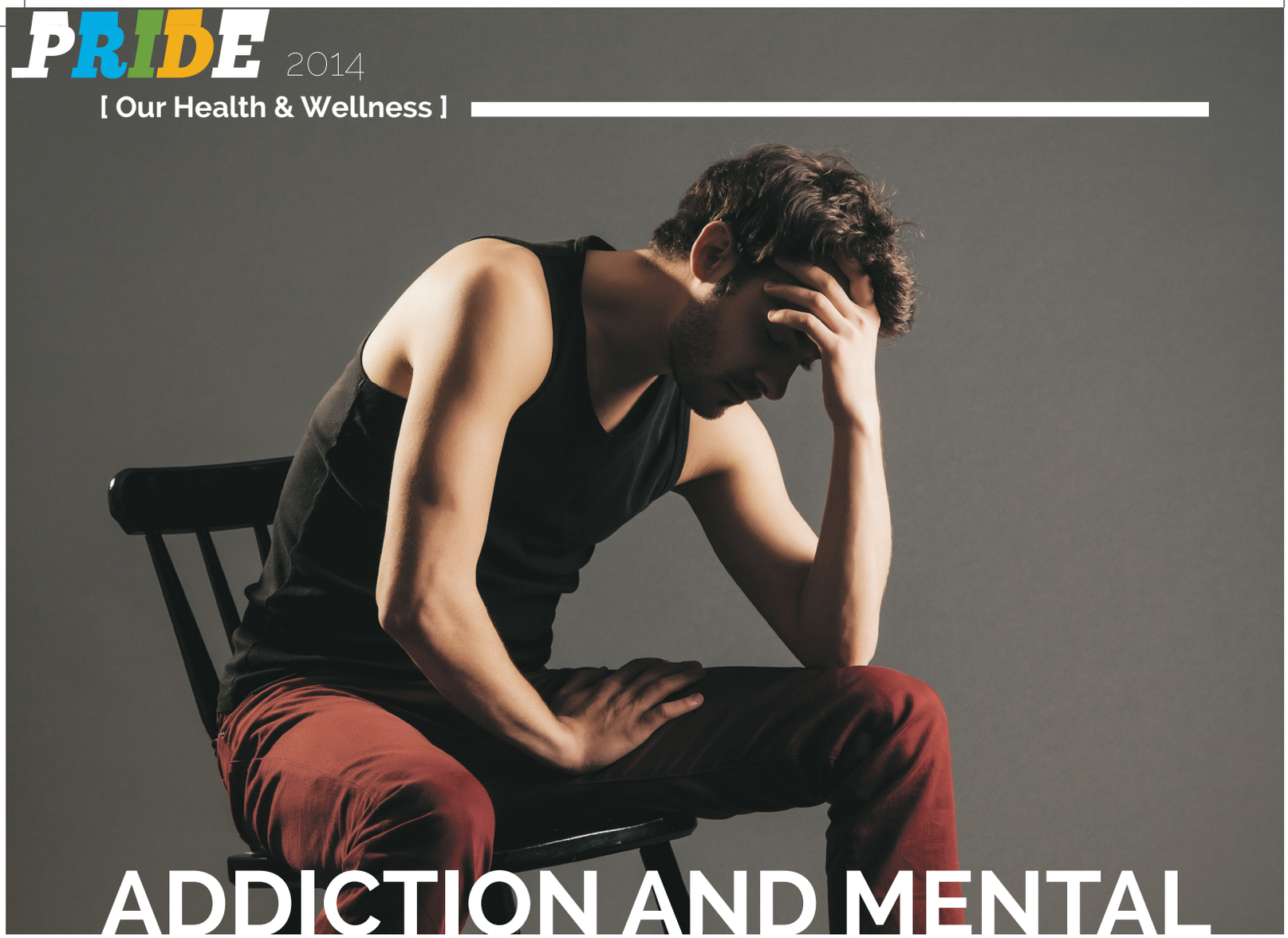
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ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH IN THE GLBT COMMUNITY

By Christopher Ackerman, BA, LADC

During this Pride season, we as a GLBT community come together to commemorate the progress we have made since the Stonewall riots in combating the discrimination we face. We've come a long way since 1969, but a major culprit remains largely under the radar. Addiction and mental health take an unequal toll on our community, often times not just shattering but even prematurely ending the lives of many of our GLBT family, friends, and loved ones.

Addiction and mental health conditions have had a tremendous impact on the GLBT community. When we honestly stop and think about it, each of us likely knows at least one person affected or likely affected by a mental health or substance use disorder. Perhaps we've wondered about our own mental or emotional health or our use of alcohol or drugs. While that awareness may be initially painful, there is solace and hope in knowing that neither your acquaintance nor you are alone and that recovery is possible.

THE PROBLEM:

For many years, research in general on the GLBT community was sparse, especially with regard to substance use disorders and mental health. In the last several years, that story has changed. However, with the recent increase in research being conducted with the GLBT community and addiction and mental health comes some very sobering information—pun intended.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has accumulated a wealth of research on mental health and substance use disorder within the GLBT community as well as the most effective treatment methods to assist people in recovery.

Addiction/Substance Use Disorders

Research conducted by SAMHSA indicates that GLBT individuals are more likely than heterosexual, gender conforming people to use alcohol and drugs. According to SAMHSA, gay men and lesbians historically have higher rates of addiction than our heterosexual counterparts, with bisexual persons experiencing addiction more often than both gay men and lesbians (Andersen, 2009). GLBT individuals are also more likely to continue heavy drinking into later life. SAMHSA also states that we as a community are less likely to abstain from using alcohol and drugs.

Certain drugs in particular present a threat to members of the GLBT community. Reflecting recent research, SAMHSA advises that metham-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 128

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phetamine use is, and remains, a significant problem for gay men, lesbians, and male-to-female transgender persons.

Certain groups within the GLBT community exhibit higher use of particular methods of use. For example, thirty-four percent of male-to-female (MTF) transgender individuals and eighteen percent of female-to-male (FTM) individuals report lifetime IV drug use (Clements, Marx, Guzman, Ikeda, & Katz, 1998). This trend illustrates the significant risk our transgender community faces as a result of addiction.

Higher rates of use don't only extend to drugs and alcohol. Studies show that GLBT individuals are more likely to smoke cigarettes than are heterosexuals (Ridner, Frost, & LaJoie, 2006; Greenwood, Paul, Pollack, Binson, Catania, Chang, et al., 2005). In society today, we are continuing to see the dramatic effects of nicotine use which then are increased in the GLBT community.

The GLBT community suffers from addiction and mental health more often than the heterosexual community, which disproportionately affects the overall quality of life for GLBT individuals compared to heterosexual, gender conforming individuals.

Mental Health Conditions

The same research coming out in the last couple of decades warns us of serious mental health and wellness concerns we face as a GLBT community. Gay men have been shown to be at a higher risk for suicide attempts and completions than other persons (Stall, Valdiserri, & Wolitski, 2008) as well as a higher prevalence of depression, often with more severe problems seen in gay men remaining "closeted" (Berg, Mimiaga, & Safren, 2008). Incidents of depression and suicide attempts among both FTM and MTF transgender persons are higher than for cisgender persons (Clements-Nolle, Guzman, Katz, & Marx, 2001). Women who have same-sex partners are also more likely to suffer from major depression, phobias, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Cochran, Gilman, Hughes, et al., 2001) and generalized anxiety disorder (Cochran, Sullivan, & Mays, 2003) with gay and bisexual men being more prone to panic attacks than heterosexual men according to the same study. Bisexual men and women consistently show higher rates of depression and anxiety at rates similar to or higher than gay men and lesbians (Dobinson & Steele, 2008). We as a community require a change. Fortunately, a path to change is available.

THE SOLUTION:

As the Stonewall riots (which we celebrate during Pride) show, we in the GLBT community fight back. As the above research illustrates, we need to fight. However, we can only fight if a solution exits. And there is a solution. Recovery is possible and treatment works. We as a community just have to become aware of the disparate incidents of both addiction and mental health in our community and take action to make a change. If we are more in tune with the warning signs, we can address the underlying causes and overcome this discrepancy.

This is possible if the underlying causes—social, environmental, religious, etc.—are addressed as part of treatment. Research indicates that if GLBT individuals receive treatment that is geared toward our unique needs, members of our community fare better in recovery (Hicks, 2000). Standard treatment may not be enough for GLBT individuals.

WHEN HELP MAY BE NEEDED:

The question now becomes, *how do we know when addiction and mental health might be a problem for us or for others?*

Some signs to be aware of are persistent desires, thoughts, and cravings to drink or use drugs. Noticing that it seems to take more of what it is you're taking/using to get to that same feeling of being high, buzzed, or drunk. Noticing blackouts and becoming ill or experiencing incapacitating hangovers are concerning. Also noticing if someone drinks or uses in situations that evoke strong or uncomfortable emotions in order to manage might suggest addiction concerns. Noticing increased irritability, long periods of feeling down, unremitting worry, trouble sleeping, and difficulty getting things done may be several signs of mental health concerns (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). If these symptoms seem to be out of the ordinary or seem to contradict or be in conflict with your personal values, seek assistance.

WHERE CAN I GO IF I THINK HELP MAY BE NEEDED:

A primary clinic or physician can make a referral for assessment to determine mental health or addiction conditions. Some primary physicians are even able to begin treating mental health conditions themselves. For addiction assessments, many treatment centers, hospitals, as well as the county in which you live, provide chemical health assessments (Rule 25 assessments). All you need to do is call and have one scheduled.

For 24-hour mental health crisis support call (651) 266-7900.

If you're in need of mental health care quickly near St. Paul: Urgent Care for Adult Mental Health is located at 402 University Avenue East, Saint Paul, MN 55130 ■

Christopher Ackerman, BA, LADC is the HealthEast Lead Outpatient Addiction Services Counselor for the L.I.F.E. Program at St. Joseph's Hospital which is an LGBT-specific outpatient mental health and addiction treatment providing holistic care to improve overall life satisfaction and wellness. Onsite psychiatry, therapy, and trauma therapy available. For more information, call (651) 326-3645 or visit www.healtheast.org/mental-health-addiction/outpatient-programs.html.

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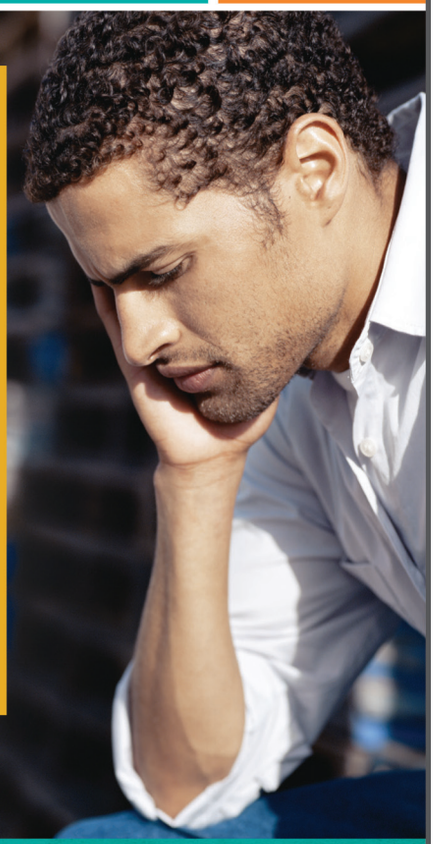
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ACUPUNCTURE
PINPOINTING THE PROBLEMS

By Shane Lueck

As medical costs rise, many Americans are turning to less expensive alternatives. A new report by Deloitte and Oxford Economics finds that consumers spent $363 billion more for health-care goods and services in 2009 than official government statistics can account for because these services are not covered by insurance. These out-of-pocket medical costs include "purchases that are outside of conventional therapies and treatments," as well as other products and services not covered by insurance programs. The finding joins a growing body of evidence that more Americans are exploring often less expensive alternatives to traditional Western medicine.

A 2007 National Health Interview Survey, which polled Americans about their use of so-called complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), estimated that 3.1 million U.S. adults and 150,000 children had used acupuncture during the previous year. And in the five years leading up to the survey, the use of acupuncture—the traditional Asian medical technique that involves the insertion of thin needles at skin-level into key areas of the body—had increased among U.S. adults by 0.3%, or about 1 million people.

As more insurance companies begin covering alternative medicines such as acupuncture,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 132



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the number of Americans seeking alternative treatments continues to rise. According to Nancy Vitalis Garrity, a practicing psychologist and acupuncturist, the practice is an ancient system that originated about 2000 years ago. "They don't really know where the joke began that someone was speared by an arrow and it was like 'man, my headache went away,' or something silly like that," she jokes.

With the various kinds of acupuncture available (Korean, Modern Chinese, Traditional Chinese, American, French, etc.), patients truly have their pick of the crop. Garrity, who practices Traditional Chinese, discusses the energy systems present within the body, termed "meridians."

"There are energy fields in the body that come to the surface at different points and those are called acupuncture points. You can access them with different things. You can access them with heat (with an herb called moxa, which you light) or a needle," she says. "The energy fields are like rivers to me, and so when you put a needle in, there is like a roadblock, a dam, that the needle unblocks."

Chinese medicine is quite complex and can be difficult for some people to comprehend. This is because it is based, at least in part, on the Daoist belief that we live in a universe in which everything is interconnected. What happens to one part of the body affects every other part of the body. The mind and body are not viewed separately, but as part of an energetic system. Similarly, organs and organ systems are viewed as interconnected structures that work together to keep the body functioning.

Acupuncture, once considered exotic in the U.S., has been around long enough to become federally regulated. Practitioners must use needles produced and manufactured according to FDA standards, which require needles to "be sterile, nontoxic, and labeled for single use by qualified practitioners only." Only people who are certified in the state are allowed to practice acupuncture.

Garrity, who has national certification as well as state certification, is also a practicing psychologist who often finds that work coming out in her acupuncture sessions. "What I try to do when I work with you is like dominoes: instead of pushing over the last one, if we can get them all to go down it's much easier," she says. "What I'm looking at is the basic core balance of the body. We want to look at the core energy system and if that is in fairly good shape then you don't have as many symptoms. If it isn't then what happens is you get an array of symptoms. I'm looking at the symptoms you have, but I also really want to check out the core because if I can get the core and take care of that, then the symptoms take care of themselves."

According to Garrity, acupuncture can treat anything—any kind of imbalance in the core system—and the number of treatments will be specific to the individual, depending how many years the illness or infliction has been in the body. She says, "The way they talk about it is it's about a month for every year you've been sick. It depends how you define sick. Some acupuncturists define fatigue as a sickness (you know, severe fatigue that's recurring), so generally I will give a first treatment and then we wait and find out what happens."

That first treatment lasts about an hour as Garrity will first sit down with the individual to discuss their history before proceeding with the needles. She will spend time learning about the main complaint, family, medical history, schooling, work, diet, supplements and medications being taken, etc. Garrity may also ask questions regarding favorite colors, seasons, and foods. She says a person's language is important as she develops the history together with them before she elicits the best treatment (or combination of treatments) for each individual to heal their system. Any additional treatments will range more in the half hour time-frame with each session tailored to the person's progress and balance.

As someone who received an acupuncture treatment without a specific malady, it was reassuring to hear confirmation that my core was pretty well-balanced and my pulse reflected my generally happy nature. Personally, Garrity noticed that my Fire meridian needed to be balanced. After learning that Fire has to do with anxiety, relationships, and love, it came as no shock to me (as a chronic single person) that this would be out of balance.

Once the actual acupuncture treatment begins, anxieties melt away as fears are calmed. For my specific treatment, Garrity began by running incense over distinct areas of the body related to what was out of balance. How long it took for me to feel the heat signified how out of balance that particular point was, which then clued Garrity in as to where to place a needle. As she had predicted before any acupuncture began, my Fire meridian needed attention, with six of the twelve locations out of balance.

The needles used are hair thin and hurt much less than a tattoo (I should know, I've got two). After each needle goes in, Garrity retests the sites on the body with the incense to ensure that they are more balanced before proceeding, even finding a previously hidden imbalance. Following the treatment, Garrity takes the time to explain what happened, and what could be treated in the process. Treating the Fire meridian, for example, can also clear up acne.

As with any treatment plan, certain populations should take caution. Pregnant women and children, for example, may require alternate methods. "There are some points that are forbidden," Garrity says. "I always double check every point I'm doing with a pregnant person." Garrity goes on to joke that with children, the rule of thumb is to treat the mother. "That's not always true, but a lot of times it is. You know, if the mother is upset, the kid will start crying. So, I do children, but I don't treat them with needles, generally. I'll use some herbs or some homeopathics or something like that."

This, again, reflects the individualistic nature with which Garrity approaches each new person that comes through her door. Taking appointments by phone and email, Garrity promises to respond to all appointment requests within 24-48 hours. For more information, be sure to visit www.garrityacupuncture.com. ■



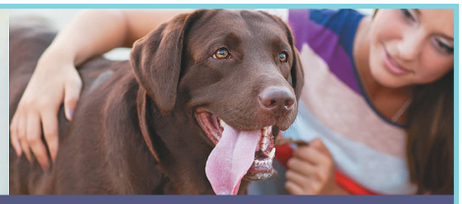
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ASK THE VET: PETS AND PRIDE



By Kevin Roeser, DVM

1.) Try as I might, I cannot seem to keep my cat inside. What concerns should I be aware of if he is spending time outdoors?

Veterinarians often find it challenging to recommend whether a cat be confined to a "safe" indoor lifestyle or permitted to stretch its legs outdoors. Cats that are allowed the freedom to explore their outside environment have much to gain in terms of mental enrichment, physical exercise, and expression of natural behaviors, but this decision is not one to be taken lightly.

Cats that are allowed free range outdoors are exposed to many more potential dangers than their indoor counterparts. Cats in the wild establish and defend large territories and when these boundaries collide in an urban setting, violent inter-cat altercations often occur. Interactions with other wildlife species (raccoons, coyotes, opossums) and the large, two- or four-wheeled metal beasts frequently encountered in most neighborhoods may also result in significant injury or death. Naturally curious as a species, outdoor cats can come into contact with toxic or hazardous materials in the ever-expanding jungle of garages, garden sheds, and alleyways. Finally, in addition to worrying about the health of your own cat, it is critical to remember that cats are themselves predators; from an ecological standpoint, domestic cats are an introduced species and pose a risk to native bird, rodent, and rabbit populations.

Infectious diseases are also seen more commonly in outdoor cats than in their metaphorically bubble-wrapped compatriots. Intestinal parasite infections can stem from exposure to the infected fecal material of other animals (e.g. roundworms, hookworms, various protozoa) or from the ingestion of larvae contained within fleas or the muscle tissue of prey items (tapeworms). These organisms can cause symptoms ranging from mild diarrhea to anemia and weight loss, and certain species can also infect their human companions. Mosquito-transmitted heartworm disease in cats has not received the same recognition as the canine condition because testing is difficult and infections tend to be less severe strictly in terms of the numbers of worms involved; that said, heartworm disease in cats can result in severe respiratory disease and even sudden death. Infestations with fleas, mites, and even fungal organisms often result from run-ins with local wildlife, ticks can be found in some surprisingly urban areas, and if you have yet to experience your own version of the *Alien* films, search the web for Cuterebriasis. Fortunately, your veterinarian can provide you with a plan to help prevent the most common parasitic concerns.

Though mentioned last, viral diseases resulting from direct cat-to-cat exposure via blood, saliva, and other excretions are far from the least important. Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) infection is associated with serious disease, with affected cats experiencing anemia, blood and lymphoid cancer, and often death. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a retrovirus that is similar in its effects to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). All cats should be tested before being added to an existing household, and outdoor cats should be tested annually or following known cat-related injuries (i.e. bites scratches, abscesses). Your veterinarian can make specific recommendations regarding vaccinations for your outdoor cat—in general, FIV vaccines are not recommended, but FeLV immunization may be indicated, especially in kittens and young cats.

As an aside, do not feel that indoor cats are doomed to a life of boredom. Set aside dedicated daily "play" time using healthy treats and interactive toys (you would be amazed by the number of cats who will "fetch"), feed your cat using a foraging toy or in several small bowls hidden around the house, and provide a variety of outlets for scratching, hiding, and surveying their kingdom.

All in all, few decisions in life come without pros and cons, and the choice to allow your feline friend outdoors is no exception. Before you let your feline friend run free this summer, please be sure to have them altered, vaccinated, tested for viral diseases and parasites, and micro-chipped. Contact your veterinarian to discuss appropriate parasite prevention and be aware of and prepared to deal with the potential hazards discussed above.

2.) I have noticed puddles of urine in areas where my elderly Labrador sleeps. She seems normal otherwise and doesn't have any other accidents in our home. Can dogs become incontinent, and if so, what can be done about it?

Urinary incontinence is not an uncommon issue in middle-aged to older spayed female dogs, with a reported occurrence rate of nearly 20%. Incontinence is often seen as a diagnosis of exclusion, meaning that it is important to rule-out other diseases that could cause similar symptoms before initiating therapy. Testing should be performed to rule out diseases that would cause your pet to drink or urinate larger volumes than normal (e.g. kidney dysfunction, diabetes mellitus, adrenal gland disease), as well as to eliminate concerns for primary urinary tract diseases like infections, bladder stones, or tumors. Classical urinary incontinence involves a urethral sphincter (the muscle that keeps the neck of the bladder "closed" to prevent urine dribbling) that is not functioning appropriately.

Medication options for urinary incontinence fall into two main groups, alpha-adrenergic agonists and synthetic hormone therapy. Alpha-adrenergic agonists (phenylpropanolamine, a.k.a "PPA" or Proinâ) directly stimulate the urethral sphincter muscles to contract more efficiently to prevent urine leakage. Synthetic estrogen compounds (diethylstilbestrol, a.k.a "DES", as well as Incuranä or estriol) are used to replace hormones lost following a spay procedure. Estrogens enhance urethral sphincter contraction by promoting the production of receptors that trigger muscle activity. Rare cases will require a combination of both medications to provide full control of symptoms, and unique cases may even benefit from surgical intervention. Both classes of medications are typically well tolerated, but your veterinarian will discuss potential side effects and recommend appropriate monitoring for each patient. Safe handling procedures and human risks will also be important topics to clarify with your pet's doctor. ■

Kevin Roeser, DVM, practices veterinary medicine at St. Francis Animal & Bird Hospital. Additional information regarding a number of commonly-encountered diseases and other helpful topics can be found at www.stfrancisanimalandbird.com.

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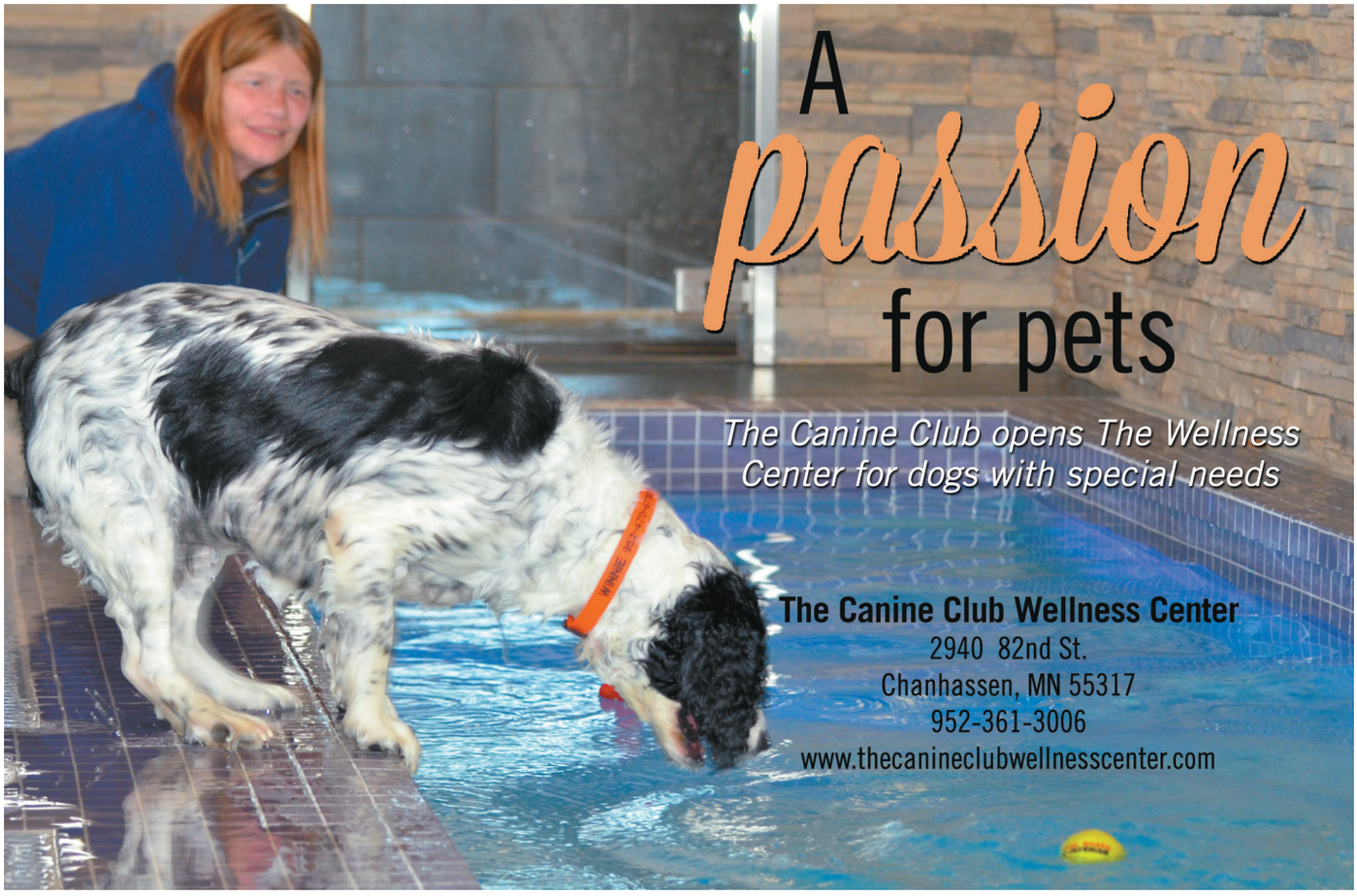
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UNIQUELY OURS
JACK & BRIAN

By Shane Lueck

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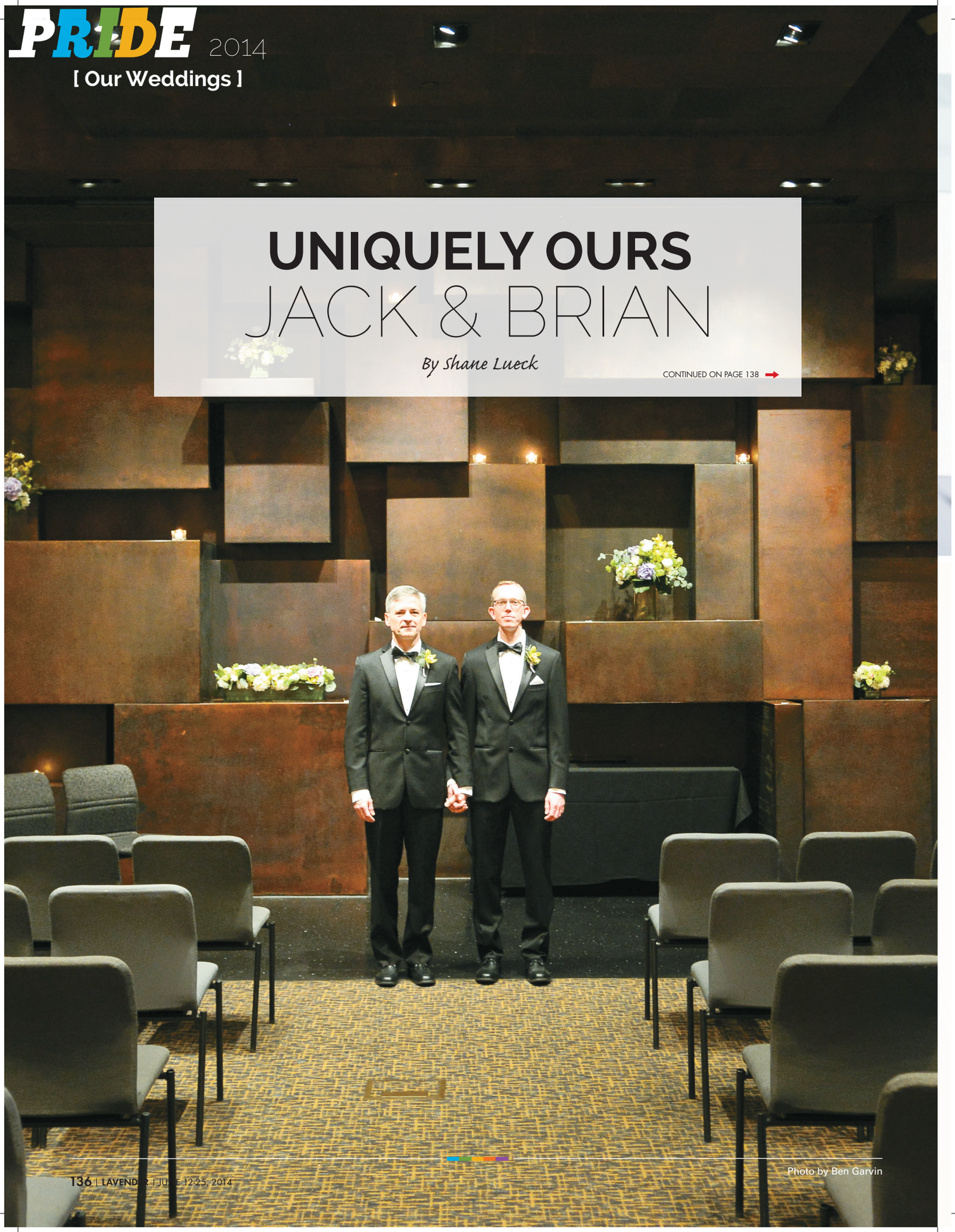


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Jack Thompson and Brian Forney had a common employer (Silicon Graphics, Inc.) but had never met. The two were even each a member of Minneapolis-St. Paul Frontrunners (a GLBT running/walking group), but it wasn't until other Frontrunners members had told Jack about another runner who worked at SGI that they were destined to meet. Eventually, both men were at the same run and met, becoming friends and eventually a couple. Brian and Jack managed to last over six years before putting that Frontrunners experience to good use by walking down the aisle.

Marriage had been on Jack's mind for some time, having started the conversation several years before proposing. Brian, not being a big production person, wasn't interested in the traditional wedding and was mostly interested in the legal portion of marriage; he felt committed to Jack without the need for a public pronouncement.

On Election Night 2012, the two attended the Minnesotans United election night party at the RiverCentre after volunteering all day for Get Out the Vote efforts. The couple decided to leave before the vote on the amendment was called and, while walking to their car, Brian turned to Jack and said that, if same-sex marriage became legal in Minnesota, he would marry Jack. To which Jack responded with a smile and a kiss.

"Brian's offer was all the incentive I needed to join the boards of Minnesotans United and OutFront Minnesota so I could do everything possible to win marriage," Jack jokes. Active for several election cycles as the treasurer of the OutFront Minnesota political action committees, it was a natural next step for Jack. As the history books note, marriage equality passed in Minnesota and Brian and Jack began making preparations for their wedding.

"We got recommendations from friends for everything but the venue, caterer, and invitations," Brian says. For the venue, the couple looked at ten locations, all in the city of Minneapolis, starting with the McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota. "We were struck by the Johnson Great Room at McNamara as a beautiful space for a wedding," Brian adds. "And the atrium space looked like a terrific place to throw a party. We also found that the Heritage Gallery would work very well for a smaller family dinner before our wedding."

Honing in on McNamara as the venue (And beautifully so! It was included on a list of "22 Coolest Places to Get Married in America" by Buzzfeed) means the couple simultaneously decided on a caterer. D'Amico & Sons came as a package deal with McNamara as the sole caterer for the venue. Similarly, other vendors seemed to serendipitously fall into place as well. The couple met Sarah Glad from A Milestone Paper Co. at an event being hosted at The Event Gallery, an encounter which resulted in wonderfully designed





Photos by Ben Garvin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 140



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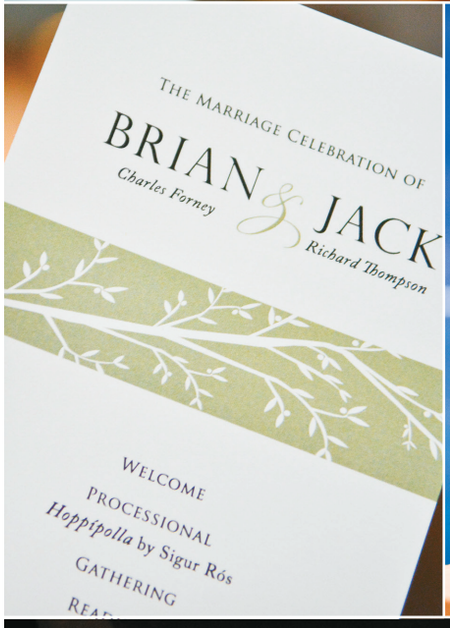
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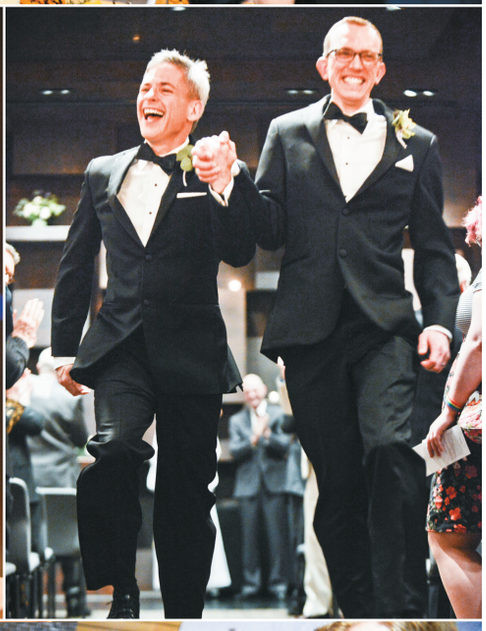
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Photo by Ben Garvin

invitations and stationery products.

As easy as deciding on vendors was, so too was creating a look for the ceremony which reflected both men. "We think this came organically," Brian shares. "We've been together for six-and-a-half years and have lived together for all but one year of that. Those two pieces may have helped." Notably, the ceremony space is architecturally modern, which the couple says suits both of their tastes.

Keeping in the spirit of simple and easy decisions, the couple settled on black tuxedos without vests or cumberbunds. Completing the simple and elegant look, both men wore white shirts with black bowties. With classic attire, the couple made deliberate choices to make the ceremony uniquely their own. Starting with a service used in the Episcopal church for blessing same-sex unions, they both edited it down a bit to reflect their personal styles, also choosing non-traditional readings and music that suited them. "We processed into the service using a Sigur Rós song, 'Hoppípolla,' and recessed using another Sigur Rós song, 'Mea Blóanasir,' which is the coda for 'Hoppípolla,'" Brian shared.

"The two families even got in the act for the music, with our nephew, Chris Daum, from the Thompson side leading live music at the reception and our brother-in-law, Marc McDonald, providing DJ services," he continued. "All of these elements were very uniquely ours." ■

JACK THOMPSON & BRIAN FORNEY
Date of Ceremony: April 12, 2014
Number of Guests: Pre-ceremony dinner, 54; Ceremony, 175; Reception, 220
Location of Ceremony/Reception: McNamara Alumni Center, Univ. of Minnesota
Officiant: Friend of the Couple
Florist: Martha's Gardens
Jewelry: Shane Co.
Attire: Michael Kors suits, rented from Savvi; Calvin Klein bow ties, Macy's
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WEDDINGS: FLIGHTS OF FLORAL

By Robert Kramer

Weddings are the universal celebration of love passed down through eons. The classic symbol of sharing body and soul.

With all the traditions that have come to be part of weddings, flowers are the most common denominator. From a hand-held bouquet of daffodils, to magnificent floral designs, flowers are the constant and eloquent voice of weddings.

Including yours.

That's right. The flowers may be eloquent, but what do you want them to say?

Your first (and hopefully last) marriage counselor might well be your professional floral designer. All the experience and vision professionals offer can prove to be helpful beyond measure.

For instance, I have been designing weddings for over 30 years and I know the path of success runs just a bit ahead of today's trends. My goal is to help you create your own trend.

There's a lot more to wedding floral designs than pretty flowers. That part of the equation is a given. There is always a spoken, or at times unspoken, theme to every wedding. The flowers and how they are arranged should reflect that theme.

There is the element of surprise as well. Delight your guests.

The space is critical. Dimensions dictate the flow and presence of the flowers. They become more than a centerpiece. They capture the moment with a variety of heights, colors, and scale.

Many of our customers can't express exactly what they want. This is another time when experience matters. Over the years I have learned to trust my intuitions. I actually can begin to visualize the "look and feel" of the event, based on the initial conversation. It is my charge to transcend their comments. It is very rewarding to have newlyweds exclaim, "That's exactly what we were thinking!"

Less is sometimes more. Wall-to-wall is not necessarily a design technique. Attention to detail allows you to create "rest stops," places where the eye can take a break. It's very important.

One of the floral phenomena in recent years is the wherewithal of any bloom, any time. Nowadays we can access the world for specific flowers any time of the year. South America, Australia, India, and beyond are all flower sources for the U.S. market. That has been a convenience for me since I started doing more weddings from our Orlando location and with the growing popularity of "destination" weddings.

The meaning of flowers has led to some interesting discussions with our customers. More and more, both parties take part. We have enjoyed creating arrangements that convey thoughts like "think of me," "imagination," "surmount all obstacles," "your qualities surpasses your charms," "I will never forget you," and "unconscious beauty."

Oh yes, flowers are eloquent.

My assistant of over 30 years, floral designer Mary Eechee, and the rest of the staff love the celebratory nature of weddings as much as I do. It is still a great sense of satisfaction and privilege to see the joy and wonder in the eyes of each couple, thanks in large part to flowers. Each wedding is a great new adventure. ■

Robert Kramer, founder of RJ Kramer Design, specialized in professional floral designs for events as well as urban gardens and outdoor living spaces.
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ONE HEARTLAND IGNITES THE (CAMP) FIRE

By Shane Lueck





Camp True Colors. Photos provided by One Heartland

In a world where it has gotten to the point when legislatures feel compelled to pass anti-bullying legislation, any glimmer of hope and support comes as a breath of fresh air. For many young people, Camp Heartland has revived that sense of pride and hope for the future.

Founded in 1993 for young people who were affected by HIV/AIDS, Camp Heartland's mission was simple: to give those young people the best week of their lives. Over the last 20+ years, the camp has provided over 20,000 camp experiences to deserving youth, and has expanded programs to serve youth facing other challenges (such as those living in transitional housing or struggling to achieve a healthy weight).

Camp True Colors is one such expansion under the One Heartland umbrella, the organization which was created in 2006 to manage the original Camp Heartland and its expansions. Camp True Colors began as a camp for young people who identify as GLBTQA, but, after being approached by the True Colors Fund, it has become a camp for GLBTQA youth who are being served by an out-of-home program (read: in foster care). Partnering with the True Colors Fund has allowed the camp to grow and strengthen—and every year a larger number of campers make their way to Willow River, Minnesota, where the camps are held.

The True Colors Fund, founded by Cyndi Lauper, is a program which raises awareness of GLBTQ youth facing homelessness (over 40 percent of homeless youth identify as GLBTQ). Jill Rudolph, One Heartland's National Camp Director says, "While Cyndi Lauper is not actively involved in the camp program, the camp relies on her organization's support and network." According to Rudolph, the True Colors Fund is not only one of the biggest financial contributors to Camp True Colors, but also helps recruit participants through one of their signature initiatives, the Forty-to-None project.

The camps, staffed by volunteers (although some receive a stipend), offer campers two daily education sessions on top of traditional camp activities. At Camp True Colors, for example, the first educational session is Queer Comfort Time, during which guest speakers present on a variety of topics (safe sex, positive relationships, transgender education topics, body image, etc.). The second, Campfire Discussions, are mediator-led group discussions on a particular topic. As a far more laid back discussion, these are quite literally held around a campfire.

Rudolph says that, for many youth, participating in One Heartland's camps means acceptance. "Camp is sadly just about the only place these young people can be themselves," she adds. "They can relate and connect with young people facing the same struggles they are, they can ask questions of peers and staff without facing stigma—and, most of all, they are able to enjoy a carefree week at camp."

Emma Mathews-Lingen, who experienced True Colors as a camper, echoes Rudolph's statements. "Camp has meant the world to me," she said. "Something so unique to Camp True Colors is that the campers and staff are given time to open up conversations about GLBTQ+ related issues, and often the campers have new knowledge to share with the staff, and vice versa. The people I've met at True Colors and the experiences I've had there will stay with me till the day I die."

The conversations, educational components, and support received at camp naturally result in personal growth on the part of the youth. Rudolph reports seeing greater self-awareness, higher self-esteem, a more positive attitude, better life skills, increased social connection, and knowledge of how to better seek out more positive relationships. With about 500 camp experiences every summer thanks to One Heartland's various programs, it's safe to say that One Heartland is making a large impact in Minnesota's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 148









Photos: Noah Wolf

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youth and beyond. One Heartland, which also hosts camps in Texas, New York, and California, is making waves across the nation.

"I think everyone that walks through the doors of camp—be they a camper, staff member, or volunteer (myself included)—has faced social isolation in one form or another. Isolation that was based on what they identify as, or on obstacles they have faced," Rudolph says. "And so we can all find one piece of camp that we relate to and can empathize with—and this connection keeps us inspired campfire after campfire, summer after summer. This is the magic of camp."

That relief from isolation is what Mathews-Lingen took away as well. "No matter how you identify you will be welcomed at camp, and your experiences and opinions accepted and learned from," she said. "I guarantee you will be made to feel at home, and make some friends."

As a nonprofit organization that relies on donations and volunteers, One Heartland is also serving a majority of campers who live at or below the poverty line, meaning they attend camp for little or no cost to them or their families. Because of this, One Heartland is always looking for help (and, Rudolph reminds people, there are many, many different ways to do so).

Whether that be volunteering at camp or at a fundraising event, leading an education session, hosting a fundraising party or drive, or any other various ways of assisting One Heartland in fulfilling its mission, Rudolph encourages everyone to get involved.

Perhaps the first chance to do this is by attending One Heartland's celebration and fundraiser during Pride, held at Union's rooftop. Watch the parade, enjoy some drinks, and raise money for One Heartland. ■

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Camp True Colors. Photos provided by One Heartland



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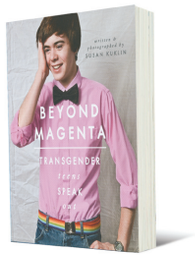
By E.B. Boatner

Fat Angie
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Fat Angie is not only fat and the school laughingstock, but she cemented her position as everyone's favorite after attempting a Carrie-White-style blood-drenched suicide in the gym. With a razor blade. With the gym filled to capacity. She has a "can't be bothered" mother, a hateful adopted brother, an absent, guilt-gifting father, a hovering nemesis named Stacy Ann, and, looming largest of all, the offstage presence of her sister who is a skinny, gifted, super-athlete, war-hero captured and missing in Iraq. Only Angie believes she is still alive. What are the odds that all will go smoothly when gorgeous new student, KC Romance, marches into Dryfalls, Ohio, in her 18-eyelet black combat boots and wants to be Fat Angie's friend? One hundred percent–not. KC is California cool, has a purple heart tattoo, legs that don't quit, and speaks a staccato crypto-teen lingo that leaves Fat Angie stunned, grasping at phonemes. Charlton-Trujillo's text moves at KC's pace: quick, scattershot, with asides that elucidate olden terms like "ABBA," dragging the reader breathlessly along in her wake. Suddenly, Fat Angie braves her taunters, her family, her instinct to hide, and immerses herself in a bid to make one of two slots on the varsity basketball team, something no freshman other than her sister had done. Dark, comic, refreshing, Fat Angie succeeds in ways she cannot predict, tentatively embracing life's loves and inevitable losses, warily opening herself to those who care: KC, her neighbor Jake, and even, to a degree, her can't-be-bothered mother. An invigorating, whirlwind read.

Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out
Susan Kuklin
Candlewick Press
$22.99



They told me
No.
Said, 'What are you?' said,
'You gotta choose'
said, 'Pink or Blue?'
and I said, I'm a real nice color of
magenta

These words are from "Untouchable," written and recited by 16-year-old Luke, at Madison, Wisconsin's GLBTQ teen theater group, Proud Theater. Author Kuklin aimed initially "to write and photograph a non-fiction book about sex and alienation; about boys who realize that they are girls and girls who realize they are boys," but while interviewing her sources, Jessy, Christina, Mariah, Cameron, and Nat through the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, and Luke at Proud Theater, their voices became the book. Each individual is fiercely different, some choosing the pronoun of their new gender, others eschewing the binary for them and they. Mariah did not want photographs ("I'm telling the truth about my life because I think you should know about me and my community. But I'm not ready for people to see me"); Nat, comfortable in their androgyny, wanted photos in black and white, while Cameron, who also uses "they," presented themselves in a gallery of splendidly nuanced poses. In Cameron's words, "Gender does not have endpoints; it's three dimensional." Jessy, whose mom is supportive, is happy; Mariah, without a support system, has endured more difficulties, but perseveres. Christina began transitioning while attending a Catholic high school for boys. Her mother is supportive and Christina has graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology. A much needed representation of actual teens; important reading for young transgender people and those who support them. ■









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KAJA & BETSY – MOMS KNOW BEST

By Kathleen Watson

Photo by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

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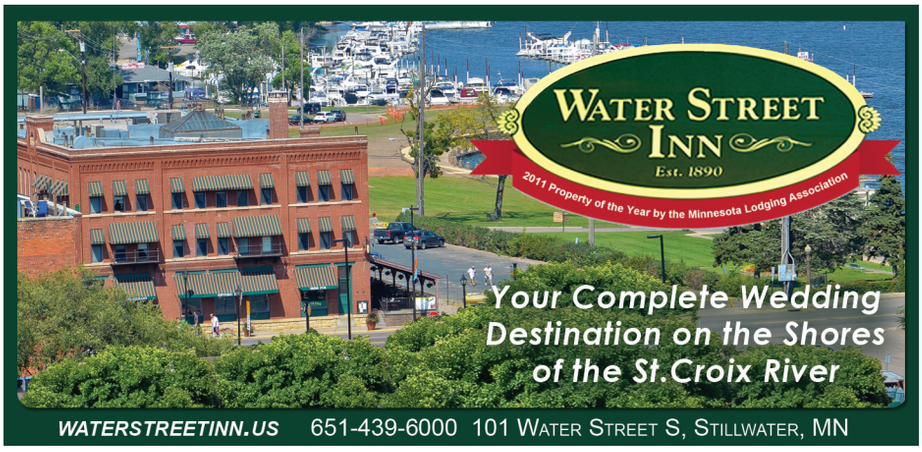


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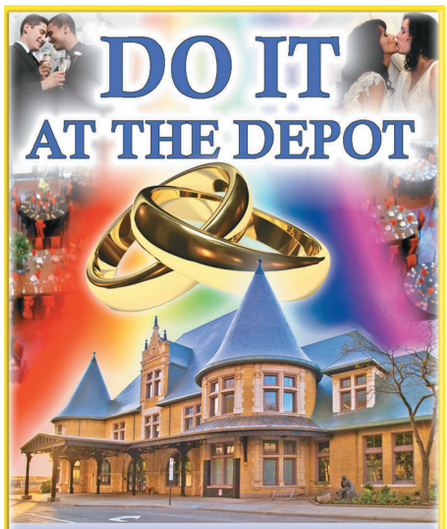
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Photo by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

Sometimes, mothers do know best. In the case of Kaja Martinson (32) and Betsy Hawes (33), the intuition of their mothers even led them to love. As coworkers, Betsy's mother and Kaja's mother bonded over the fact that they both have gay daughters. Like many mothers wanting the best for their children, they played the role of matchmaker and suggested a meeting. Though it sounds like the beginning of a romantic comedy that could very quickly go wrong, Kaja and Betsy fell in love and decided to create a future—all thanks to the help of their meddling mothers.

When they met in 2005, Kaja and Betsy realized they had quite a bit in common. Both women were educators who knew they wanted families, and their similar values made the idea of starting a family together feasible. Kaja and Betsy also found their senses of humor were complementary. Kaja notes, "Betsy and I have always laughed a lot together, and I think she is hilarious." Betsy adds, "She makes me laugh in really unexpected ways." With their similar principles and their shared joy, the relationship flourished between the two women.

After three years of dating, it became apparent to both women that this relationship was the real thing. Betsy decided to take the next step. In the summer of 2008, Betsy planned some special "Minneapolis surprises" for Kaja, culminating at a Twins game, much to the delight of avid fan Kaja. Just before the game, Betsy proposed. She recalls, "It was just us, and it was a good day!" A good day, indeed, for Kaja enthusiastically agreed to the proposal.

In 2009, Betsy and Kaja got married at Gale Woods Farm. They created their dream wedding by incorporating important family traditions and stories. Friends and family members brought their favorite dishes to the wedding, and a recipe book for all the dishes was compiled for all the guests to remember the special day. Betsy adds, "It was a great night with all our family and friends, and in a beautiful place. We had such a blast!"

The couple took a road trip to Massachusetts for their honeymoon in 2010 to legally marry. Kaja notes, "This was the perfect culmination of our wedding process, beginning with a symbolic celebration with our family and friends, and ending with a legal ceremony in a city known for fighting for equal rights for all."

Though marriage equality is now a reality, Kaja and Betsy tied the knot when there were only three states that allowed same-sex marriages. Kaja recalls a story her father-in-law shared when they got married, "When he married his wife, it was illegal in thirteen states for them to enter into an interracial marriage, and now the challenge of our times is marriage equality."

Once they were married, Kaja and Betsy knew they wanted to have a family. They started planning in 2011 by creating a timeline and evaluating their options. Together, they found a cryobank online and chose an anonymous sperm donor (Cryogenic Laboratories, Inc., www.cryolab.com). With the help of Betsy's sister, Emily (an Ob/Gyn doctor), Betsy was artificially inseminated and became pregnant with Ezra. Betsy adds, "We chose artificial insemination because Kaja and I both wanted to experience what it's like to carry a child." In the spring of 2013, Kaja and Betsy welcomed their daughter, Ezra Martinson Hawes, into their family.

As a family, Kaja, Betsy, and Ezra love to spend time outside, especially at the wading pools around Minneapolis. 14-month-old Ezra is currently learning how to walk, and she loves to explore the sidewalk and the neighbors' stairs. Betsy says Ezra is filthy and thoroughly exhausted by the end of the day, and the three of them then snuggle down with a book, with Ezra turn-

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ing the pages. Betsy adds, "Parenting is really incredible. We get to watch a human being evolve and learn and grow. Ezra surprises us all the time and is doing new things each day." Through caring for Ezra, Kaja and Betsy have learned the value of communication, and they've learned the importance of being present in every moment. Kaja says, "We love being moms!"

As Kaja and Betsy have discovered the joys of parenting, they also have experienced some of the challenges of GLBT parenting. Kaja notes that most of these challenges were very subtle, and she believes that they stemmed from a lack of awareness. Kaja notes, "When we shared the news that we were expecting, many people made assumptions that I was carrying, when in fact, it was Betsy. As with all interactions, our responses became better the more times it happened." Kaja also noticed that when "Betsy's baby bump began to show more, many people congratulated her, but did not congratulate me." These subtle situations made Kaja and Betsy more aware of the assumptions they made about other families.

Kaja and Betsy rely strongly on their community of GLBT parents, using this group to source doctors, lawyers, and cryobanks who are welcoming and inclusive to all families. In addition to being able to get advice from same-sex families, their friends are able to provide support and camaraderie. Kaja says, "It's exciting to be part of this community. We are not alone in this journey." Betsy notes, "It's invaluable to us to be surrounded by people who truly understand how we feel." Kaja adds, "Since Ezra was born—as a family—we have experienced only love and acceptance from our community; however, we recognize that this is not the case for all GLBT families. We feel very fortunate."

As Minnesota (and slowly, the nation) settles into the reality of marriage equality, more and more GLBT families are popping up out of the woodwork. Kaja says, "Five years ago, at the Pride festival, there were very few families with young children. Last year, there were children everywhere!" The Minnesota GLBT community is embracing the increasing number of GLBT families by holding family-friendly events throughout the year. These events allow families to network and exchange resources as well as meet others who are navigating the exciting (and simultaneously stressful) waters of same-sex parenting. Betsy encourages people who are starting a family to ask questions; the GLBT parenting community is more than willing to help "wade through the confusion."

Even after their marriage was finally legally recognized in Minnesota, the Freedom to Marry Act has a continued impact on the lives of Kaja and Betsy. In addition to finally receiving legal recognition, Kaja and Betsy will now both be recognized as legal parents of their future child, which Kaja intends to carry. (Since Ezra was born before August 1, 2013, Kaja must go through the full adoption process to be considered Ezra's mother.) They will not have to adopt any future children; Kaja feels the marriage equality law "validates that our family matters."

As this family continues to grow in the future, Kaja and Betsy are fortunate to have their strong relationship to lean on. Kaja appreciates how Betsy balances her out, and cherishes their great conversations. "She is the perfect wife for me in so many ways," Kaja adds. Betsy respects how Kaja strongly speaks her mind, and knows that Kaja will continue to be a great mother to Ezra and their future children. Kaja and Betsy will undoubtedly impart double the amount of motherly wisdom to their children, and their children will grow to learn that moms do know best, and having two potentially meddling mothers is a very special gift, indeed. ■

As this family continues to grow in the future, Kaja and Betsy are fortunate to have their strong relationship to lean on.



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A SAFE PLACE FOR YOUTH

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By Ellen Krug

Do you remember how you felt about your sexuality or gender when you were 14 years old? Were you confused? Scared? Isolated? Kick-ass?

For those dear gentle readers who are Millennials—with young memories—the answer is a no brainer. On the other hand, for Gen Xers, or even more so for Boomers like me, the response may not be as easy. It may also be filled with some regret over lost chances.

The question of what I thought as a young teen jumped out at me last month when I was invited to a weekly support group named "So What If I Am?" at The Bridge for Youth in Minneapolis. It's the longest-running GLBT youth support group in the Twin Cities; as best anyone knows, the inaugural meeting of the group occurred in 1992—a time when society wasn't particularly welcoming to gays and lesbians of any age.

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Kristan Clow. Photo by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

With a staff of forty-three, which includes many social workers and youth counselors, The Bridge for Youth helps at-risk youth in a variety of ways. (Note: I'm a member of the BFY's board of directors; however, I'd consider this place super cool even if I wasn't affiliated with it.)

The organization annually serves about 1000 youth, ages 10 to 17, many of whom have had juvenile justice issues or have been survivors of sexual abuse or sex trafficking. A fair number are GLBT-identifying and struggling with parental or self-acceptance issues. The BFY also provides temporary or transitional housing, the latter for teens seeking to live independently. The program also offers nonresidential counseling, support and life skills training, which includes "So What If I Am?"

I admit that I was apprehensive about sitting with a bunch of queer teens on a late Tuesday afternoon in order to write this piece. After all, I was a middle-aged outsider; would they even be willing to talk to me?

Not a problem, as it turned out. The group, which included four female-born and two male-born teens, some of whom were of color, ranged from "just-turned 14" to 17. They self-described as lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. Some attended city schools; others were from the 'burbs. Several had parents who had brought them to "So What," which I thought was about as supportive as a parent could be. (I later learned that the parents go out for coffee while they wait for the meeting to end; in essence, their own support group.)

As we sat in a room adorned with a large rainbow flag and filled with comfy couches, each teen "checked in" with a brief update of their lives in the time since the prior week's meeting. Most of these folks were regulars, making it easy to simply pick up where they last left off.

There was one newcomer, a Saint Paul high school freshman who had recently come out to his mother at three o'clock in the morning. Happily, Mom was unfazed by the news. On the other hand, "My dad doesn't know," the newcomer said. "He's made derogatory comments about gays in the past, so I don't know if I'll ever tell him."

There were understanding nods from the group. Each of these folks has had to navigate coming out to a variety of people in a variety of ways. They were way more brave at their ages than I could ever imagine being.

"It takes effort to create a safe space," advised Kristan Clow, the BFY Youth and Community Outreach Manager and lead facilitator of "So What." She added, "We want a place where people treat each other well."

From what I could see, Kristan and her BFY colleagues (a social worker intern also attends group meetings) should have no worries in that regard. For seventy-five minutes, I listened as

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the group shared both honest words and good-natured jabs. I lost count of the number of laughs and tears, some of which were directed at me as I was called upon to share my story, stranger or not.

Talk about respect. And safety. I wanted to adopt each group member. These people certainly could teach just about anyone a thing or two about showing up as real.

I thought back to living in small-city Iowa in the 1960s and '70s and how having a collection of safe people to talk to could have made all the difference in the world. I could only think of how my life would have been different had I experienced such empowerment.

Apart from the group's longevity, facilitator Kristan stated that a standout feature is the age group served. "What's unique about this group," she explained, "is that it's younger." With an age range from 10 to 17, this support group differs from other Twin Cities youth support groups, which are generally focused on 17- to 23-year-olds.

Kristan elaborated, "Parents don't want their kids with older kids. We're a trusted resource."

In fact, in the four years that Kristan's been facilitating the group, she's seen "younger and younger teens" attend.

I'm sure part of this is due to growing societal acceptance. However, I suspect another reason lies with how the BFY is so incredibly welcoming. As Kristan described it, the group's participants, "Feel normal and not like freaks or outcasts."

This held true during my visit. The teens I sat with were extremely supportive of each other. One self-identifying lesbian confessed to multiple crushes, including her track coach and a mom down the street. The admissions generated other crush confessions, but no criticism or judgment.

Another hot topic was bullies and how, in some school settings, they're fast becoming the minority.

"Andre" (pseudonym), a jokester in the group, spoke of a recent experience where he sat at the back of a school bus. Someone from among several teens on the bus made a homophobic comment and quickly got up to take a seat at the front of the bus, as a way of shunning Andre. However, as Andre related, "No one else in the bus moved to the front." He continued, "I thought it was cool that his friends just sat there with me."

The story made me think that maybe some of those anti-bullying messages are taking hold.

Kristan stated that often newcomers to the group are quiet or withdrawn, yet within several sessions, "Their confidence builds and they're sharing stories and experiences. They find out they're not alone."

As if to reinforce this, when the Saint Paul freshman spoke of his father not being accepting of gays, a young woman in the group moved seats so that she could put her arm around the freshman's shoulder. It was an extremely kind thing to do and apparently for her, natural as well.

Group members also check other members when their thoughts veer to the unhealthy. "I repeatedly see kids end their negative thinking as a way of dealing with pain," Kristan reported. "Group members support each other and hold each other's stories," she said. "For example, someone will say, 'This is my third month of not cutting,' or 'It's my fourth month of not calling my abusive ex.'"

Crucially, the support doesn't stop with the teens; "So What" also helps parents and family members who are struggling along with the youth.

A single mother whose transgender daughter has been a group regular told me, "Without this group, I'd be lost." As happens quite often with trans youth, her daughter had previously attempted suicide. Twice.

"Kristan has held me together," the mom said. "If I have problems, I call Kristan."

As I thought about it, this is what makes "So What" and the BFY so valuable to the community. They offer resources for younger teens and their families where caring professionals like Kristan Clow will give everyone breathing room to find their emotional footing. Anyone can take advantage of these resources, regardless of income, stature, race, or orientation.

"A safe place" as Kristan put it.

Isn't this exactly what so very many people need?

"So What if I Am?" serving youth ages 10 to 17 and their families, meets every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:30 at The Bridge for Youth, located at 1111 West 22nd Street, in Minneapolis. The building can be reached via Bus Route 6. It's not necessary to call in order to participate; however, anyone with questions can call 612-377-8800. Kristan's email: k.clow@bridgeforyouth.org. ■



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FAITH IS NOT A FIG LEAF FOR DISCRIMINATION

By Javen Swanson

Just days before the end of the Minnesota Legislature's 2013 session, the fate of a bill granting same-sex couples the freedom to marry was far from certain. Minnesotans United staff were furiously counting votes and trying to persuade undecided legislators. Only one thing was clear: the vote would be close.

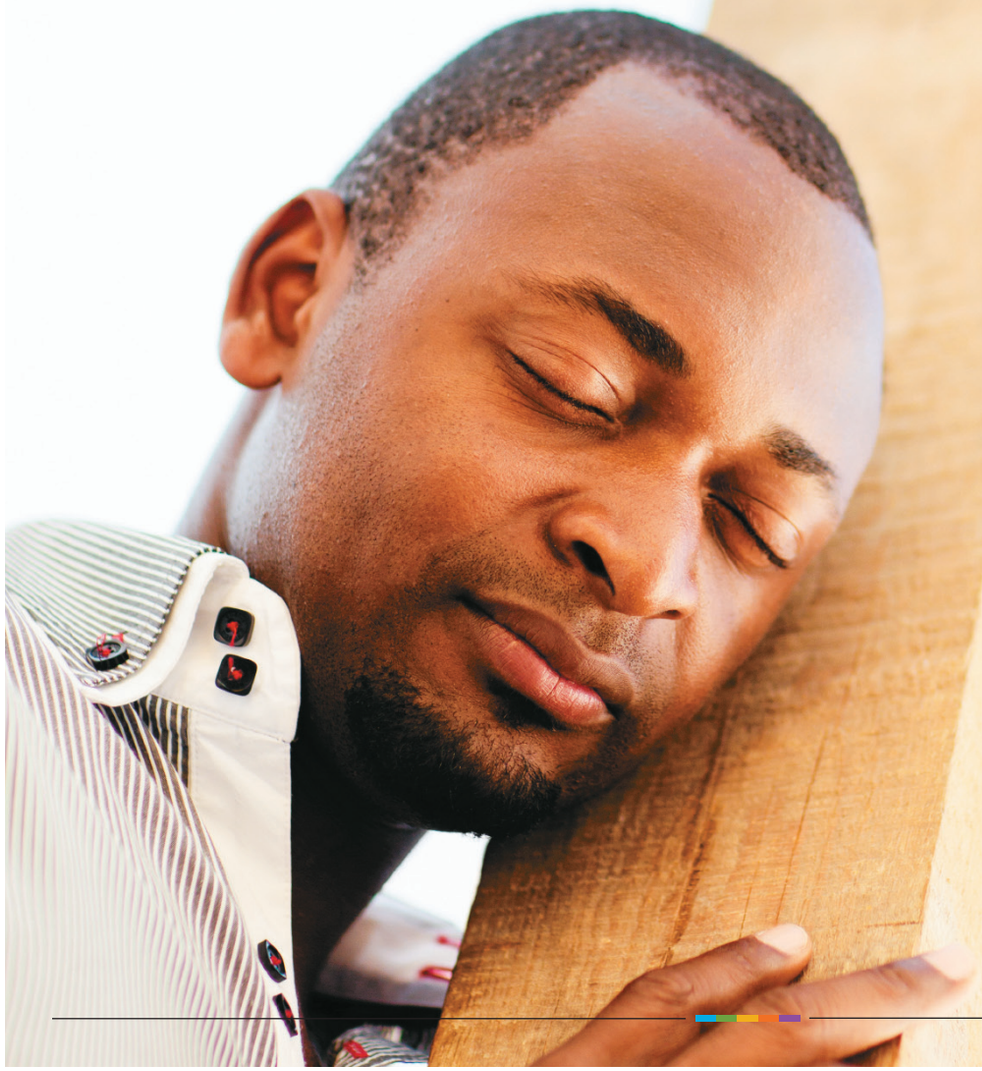
Enter Representative David FitzSimmons.

A Republican from Albertville, FitzSimmons wanted to find a way for fair-minded legislators to support the bill while addressing the concerns they had heard from constituents. Some Minnesotans worried that the bill would require clergy and faith communities to perform same-sex marriages, even if it violated their religious beliefs.

That, of course, was not the case. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects religious freedom. Churches and other worshipping communities are free to practice their faith as they see fit, and that includes deciding which relationships they will recognize and bless.

Nevertheless, FitzSimmons proposed an amendment to the bill that inserted the word "civil" in front of "marriage." This minor tweak emphasized that extending the freedom to marry to same-sex couples would impact only the legal recognition of such relationships. The state's marriage laws—those that determine who can receive a civil marriage license—would be applied equally to all couples, regardless of gender. Houses of worship, on the other hand, would retain their First Amendment freedom to decide who can enter into the religious marriages performed in their communities.

The FitzSimmons amendment eased the concerns of those who feared the bill would limit their religious freedom, but it did not change the substance of the bill. Same-sex couples would be granted the freedom to marry, and communities of faith could rest assured of their First Amendment rights. By embracing his proposal, the Minnesotans United team gained Fitzsimmons's support and secured a handful of other legislators' votes. No longer was the outcome uncertain. The bill would pass.



Religious freedom is a hot topic these days. All over the country, lawmakers are debating pieces of legislation that claim to guarantee one's freedom to practice their religion as they see fit. But not all religious freedom legislation is created equal. Some of the proposals being considered are far more sweeping than the harmless FitzSimmons amendment. They would usher in drastic changes that would turn back the clock on anti-discrimination legislation in this country.

After decades of losses and setbacks, the GLBT movement finally seems to have gained the upper hand. We have built political power, run winning campaigns, and won a string of legal victories. It has become increasingly difficult for our opponents to beat us at the polls, in our statehouses, and in the courts.

So it is to be expected that among those who oppose GLBT liberation, a new and more desperate strategy is emerging. That strategy? Carve massive "religious exemptions" into existing laws to expand religious freedom well beyond what the First Amendment provides.

"Religious freedom" is an American value, to be sure. It is found at the heart of the Bill of Rights. But the impacts of the religious exemption laws being proposed in various parts of the country are decidedly un-American. These laws would allow event centers, wedding photographers, and caterers who object to same-sex marriage on religious grounds to refuse services to gay couples. They would allow judges tasked with interpreting and implementing the law to deny gay couples a civil marriage license if their religious convictions lead them to oppose same-sex marriage. In a country with a long history of struggling to stamp out discrimination, religious exemptions would be a giant step backward.

Clergy will never be required to perform a religious marriage that violates their beliefs. Faith communities will always have the freedom to decide who can enter into a religious marriage in their midst. The marriage equality bill that was signed into law last year in Minnesota only reinforced these basic religious freedoms provided by the First Amendment.

But religious exemption laws in other states are charting new territory. Legalizing "civil" discrimination on the basis of religious belief sends us down a slippery slope.

That was the concern raised by some United States Supreme Court justices recently during oral arguments in *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby*, a case that is not about GLBT equality but will have a significant impact on the GLBT community. Hobby Lobby is challenging an Obamacare rule that requires employers to provide workers with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 168

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health insurance that covers contraceptives. The conservative Christians who own the arts and crafts retailer oppose the use of contraceptives on religious grounds. They argue that being forced to provide contraceptives for Hobby Lobby employees is a violation of their religious freedom.

During oral arguments in the case, Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan challenged Hobby Lobby's position. Can employers claim religious objections to blood transfusions, immunizations, or medical products that include pork? What about sex discrimination, minimum wage, family leave, or child labor laws? Allowing business owners to pick and choose which laws they will follow based on their religious beliefs makes it possible for employers to shirk almost any rule or regulation they don't like. Just find a way to claim some sort of religious objection and you can do almost anything you want.

Religious conservatives have learned to wield faith to justify discrimination. It is GLBT-affirming people of faith who must shape our movement's response.

One week before the Supreme Court heard the Hobby Lobby case, 47 religious leaders, including myself, released a statement supporting universal access to contraception. "Religious freedom," we said, "means that each individual has the right to exercise their own beliefs and the right not to have others' beliefs forced upon them."

This concept of religious freedom is at the heart of another lawsuit recently filed in North Carolina. That state, like others that have voted to limit the freedom to marry, bars same-sex couples from receiving marriage licenses. But North Carolina law goes even further. Clergy there are banned from performing marriage ceremonies for couples who don't have a license. In North Carolina, your pastor could pay a fine and spend up to 120 days in jail for performing your same-sex wedding.

The United Church of Christ, a denomination whose national governing body endorsed marriage equality in 2005, is suing the state of North Carolina. The law, they say, violates their religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment. Yes, the state can make same-sex marriage illegal. But the state cannot tell clergy and faith communities which relationships they may celebrate and bless.

This lawsuit is turning things on their head. Until now, "religious freedom" has been the rallying cry of religious conservatives who oppose GLBT equality. Today, a different message is getting out: Religious freedom means clergy and communities of faith have the right to honor and bless same-sex couples, even when the state has made that love illegal. Perhaps surprisingly, it is North Carolina clergy and people of faith who are leading the push-back against that state's discriminatory laws.

Religious freedom has become the new battleground in the struggle for GLBT liberation. In the last few months, many states have debated sweeping religious exemptions laws that could erode hard-won protections for GLBT people and other marginalized groups. Arizona Governor Jan Brewer vetoed a religious exemptions bill in February under intense pressure from GLBT activists, business leaders, and progressive people of faith. More recently, anti-GLBT groups in Oregon announced in May they were suspending their campaign to force a statewide vote on whether to adopt a religious exemptions law. Mississippi, on the other hand, became the 18th state to adopt such a law when Governor Phil Bryant signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act there in April. The religious freedom debate is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

The GLBT movement must push back against attempts to carve massive religious exemptions into law—and it must start by embracing progressive people of faith as allies. Rather than bashing religion, let's amplify the voices of religious leaders who are lifting up the best of their traditions. Let's shine a light on those who insist that their faith calls them to alleviate suffering and strive for justice. People of faith may be unlikely allies in the quest for GLBT liberation—and that's exactly why it's time to put them front and center. ■

Javen Swanson is the Interim Faith Work Director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and a future pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force builds the power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community from the ground up. The Task Force is the country's premier social justice organization fighting to improve the lives of LGBT people and working to create positive, lasting change and opportunity for all. More at www.thetaskforce.org.

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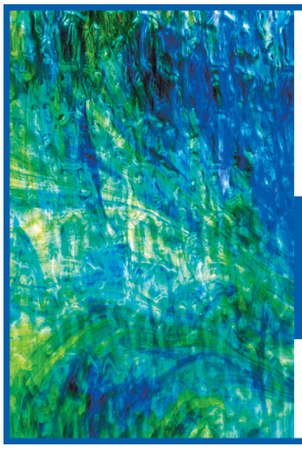
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SPIRITUALITY & PRIDE

By Thomas Ehnert

It was Pridefest, 2011. I was walking home from work and could hear the *thud, thud, thud* of the music coming from what my friends simply called "Pride." Unlike my friends, I wasn't going to Pride. I told them, "I have to work." What I told myself was, "*Being gay* is nothing to be proud of. Being *this way* destroyed my life."

I had only come out the previous August. For three decades, I coped with being gay by not admitting I was gay—not to myself or anyone else. My own personal religious beliefs meant that I tried everything to keep myself not in a closet, because closets have doors! Someone might have opened that door and discovered my secret! I built myself into a full-blown mighty fortress with no doors, in or out! I began construction when the thought first came to me as a five-year-old, "I'm not like the other boys."

Over the years, I built the walls higher and thicker in an effort to keep myself in, and to keep other people out. I threw myself into my religion. I prayed to become straight. I made a chapel in my parents' basement. Come to think of it, with its gray concrete block walls, my private chapel resembled a fortress! I went to parochial school. I went to seminary. I became clergy. I married. I had a child. Despite thirty years of effort and angst put into my fortress, I was still gay.

By August 2010, I couldn't live in a fortress anymore. The two words, "I'm gay," were like a wrecking ball. Every time I revealed my truth to someone, it bashed against my fortress. I knocked down what I had spent thirty years constructing. I lost most of my family and all my friends. Some stopped communicating with me. I stopped communicating with others before they could stop communicating with me. Even though I lost my profession, home, and income, what hurt most is that I hurt so many people. I lost my sense of dignity and pride.

Ten months later, in 2011, my first "Pride" came, but I was not yet proud. I was free from that awful mighty fortress. But being gay was still nothing to celebrate for me. I was like someone coming out of a prison. I had to get used to freedom.

By 2012, Pridefest weekend was so different for me. I participated! What happened? Once my fortress was torn down, I could actually let people *into* my life. I could let them know the real me. My mom accepted the real me and was proud of the real me way before I was! I had other supportive family too, friends who became like family, and life-affirming clergy. I had spent years building up walls. They built up me.

Now as I look back, this is what I've learned: for GLBT people, pride is not optional. For us, pride is a virtue, an ethical value, and a spiritual principle. Pride is a moral imperative. Yes, the old dictum says, "Pride goeth before destruction." But among us, shame, guilt, fear, and self-loathing go before destruction. Those feelings lead into a fortress. Those feelings lead some of us to substance abuse, depression, loneliness, and suicide. They were companions in my fortress too.

The other thing I've learned is that being gay didn't destroy my life. Living in my fortress wasn't a life! Pride goes before real life for us—an honest, self-respecting, confident, and peaceful life. It takes such exhausting deceit and never-ending anxiety to build, maintain, and live alone in fortresses! So this month, celebrate Pride by tearing down whatever fortresses remain in your life. Be there for someone who's still in the demolition phase. Our work isn't done when we're out of *our* fortress. Our work is done when none of our GLBT family feel they have to live alone in a closet, or a fortress! Our work is done when every member of our GLBT family can embrace a real, open, and honest life wherever they are. Celebrate that dream this month! Work to make that dream a reality for others, every day! Have a proud Pride! ■

Tom Ehnert is a dad, a former Lutheran pastor, and lifelong student of spirituality. If you'd like to share more about your spiritual journey, contact him at lgbtqspiritual@gmail.com.

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DR. WALLACE "WALLY" SWAN ON HIS BOOK ABOUT WHAT THE GLBT COMMUNITY NEEDS TO FOCUS ON NOW THAT MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS BECOMING A REALITY

By John Townsend

Dr. Wallace "Wally" Swan was the first openly gay man to be elected to a city office in Minneapolis. He served three terms as Vice President and President of the Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation ending in December 2005. He established himself across social divisions as a man who cared and cares deeply about the well-being of the GLBT community and the rest of the society that we all share. Swan's wise influence was also part of what made Minneapolis more prosperous and livable than most American cities during the economic downturns of the past few decades. Hence, fiscal conservatives also have an appreciation for the man.

Swan's latest book is a call to action by the GLBT community titled *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Civil Rights: A Public Policy Agenda for Uniting a Divided America*. It contains numerous essays by different notable minds about what's next, now that marriage equality is becoming a reality. I asked Dr. Swan some questions that address some, though far from all, of the overview his book offers.

JT: What do you mean by "empowered" and "disempowered" states?

WS: This book is about the current Civil Rights struggle that is going on in the United States, where 17 "empowered" states have many if not all GLBT civil rights up to and including marriage, while the remaining 33 "disempowered states" have few if any of these rights. These "disempowered" states are geographically grouped into rust belt states, southern states, plains states and mountain states. The disempowered states typically don't have protections for employment, education, prevention of bullying, domestic partnerships or marriages; and they have differing socioeconomic characteristics from the "empowered" states.

The lack of the protections in these states is guaranteed by an alliance of powerful national organizations which raise tens of millions of dollars each time these rights are brought to a vote of the people. The book documents a whole wide variety of professional fields where inequality has been the case—K-12 and higher education, senior issues , health, criminal justice, homelessness, family formation, among many others. It discusses recent victories for marriage equality in Minnesota and other states and contrasts them with defeats in North Carolina and suggests some ways by which the "disempowered" states may move toward equality. Ensuring equal marital rights is only the beginning, and not the end, of efforts to ensure equality for GLBT people.

JT: There is a view that a minority of gay men are in marital relationships while the majority are not. What is the economic concern about this? And what about the many gay men who choose to be single or the unknown amount who are polyamorous?

WS: Data has been collected in the U.S. Census to tell us how many gay and lesbian couples there are in the United States; 646,464 couples or 1,292,928 individuals. Of those, perhaps 131,729 of the couples are "married". However, no U.S. Census data has ever been collected to really tell us how many single GLBT people there are in the country because the question is not asked in the census. As a result, we cannot for sure tell

CONTINUED ON PAGE 174

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if there are more married than single gay men; or more married lesbians than there are single lesbians; or how many bisexuals or transgender people there really are. The U.S. Census data is used to allocate over $400 billion to groups needing assistance, and as a result GLBT singles get nothing. This needs to be changed.

JT: There is a view that the vast majority of older GLBT people are not and will not be a part of the marriage boom despite the fact that they were the bedrock over the decades that laid the foundation for marriage equality to succeed. But there's a real, present, and ongoing danger of our seniors being put in precarious situations in nursing homes and in the sheer ability to survive financially.

WS: Having been to a number of the recent training sessions about rules and regulations governing marriage, I was struck by how most of the hundreds of people in attendance were actually older gay and lesbian couples, who clearly are interested in legally protecting their valued relationships. That fact aside, however, the book does have an excellent chapter by Professors Jean Quam and K. Abel Knochel discussing the concerns of GLBT seniors regarding their anxiety about having to go back into the closet when they enter assisted care and nursing homes. Luckily, in Minnesota we have the work of Training to Serve which has trained and assessed many nursing home as well as assisted care home staff in terms of their ability to be culturally competent in dealing with GLBT senior issues: Readers can look at the website www.trainingtoserve.org/ to obtain this list. Our state is a model for many parts of the United States where this capability does not currently exist.

JT: What are some of the issues regarding prisons and why should we be concerned about that?

WS: The 2003 Prison Rape Prevention Act was designed to ensure that GLBT people (and others) are protected against being singled out for their identity and then sexually assaulted in correctional institutions. A side-effect of this positive effort is that we now have no idea how many GLBT people there are who are in prison. Like many other issues relating to GLBT people (e.g. adult and senior homelessness), without data we are helpless to identify the kinds of problems that there are and deal with them.

JT: Undocumented transgender persons lack options and the results can be rather terrifying.

WS: The treatment of undocumented GLBT people is unacceptable. And the treatment of transgender people and single undocumented people is particularly egregious. Research reveals that if people are transgender, they stay in "preventive detention" (i.e. solitary confinement") to "protect them" from other prisoners, for an average of eight months, instead of the normal two months for heterosexuals.

If they are living in a coupled relationship, they can now apply for citizenship. If they are single, they go to the detention camps.

JT: We hear lots of feel-good stories about young people of today accepting queerness, homosexuality, and the GLBT community. But there are serious concerns about GLBT youth both at schools as well as those who have been thrown onto the streets.

WS: At a Rainbow Health Initiative program that I attended on May 17, 2014, the presentation included the 2013 Minnesota Student Survey figures on suicidal ideation and suicide attempts by young people in Minnesota. They were as follows:

Suicidal Ideation:
Gay and Lesbian —— 29.02%
Bisexual —— 43.77%
Questioning —— 22.00%
Non-GLBT —— 9.51%
Suicide Attempts:
Gay and Lesbian —— 12.54%
Bisexual —— 19.51%
Questioning —— 6.95%
Non-GLBT —— 2.72%

The issue of GLBT homelessness is a major issue of course, with figures ranging from 20%-40% of the total youth homeless population being young GLBT people. The other, (totally unrecognized) issue is that a recent San Francisco study, which needs to be replicated in other cities, documented in the December 2, 2013 edition of the New York Times indicates that 29% of the adult homeless population in that city are adult and senior GLBT people. Thus the GLBT percentage of the homeless population throughout our entire life cycle remains about the same.

JT: What are your thoughts on the horrors in Nigeria, Brunei, Russia, Malaysia, and Uganda?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 176







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It seems that we have a responsibility to sound the alarm on that.

WS: I could not agree more. The efforts of right-wing religious zealots have been unsuccessful in the United States. Therefore, in the same way that the unsuccessful efforts of cigarette manufacturers have been exported to Asia and Africa, the ideology of anti-GLBT bigots has been exported to Nigeria, Russia, Malaysia, Brunei, and Uganda, among other countries. We need to support the efforts of the United States and the United Nations to call to legal account in the International Court of Justice those who support these egregious violations of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights. Why are they not being prosecuted?

JT: What issues concern you about health care?

WS: Clearly the issues of health care disparities between GLBT people and the remainder of the population are of great importance, and have been carefully identified by Rainbow Health Initiative in the "Voices of Health: A Survey of LGBTQ Health in Minnesota" as well as the Hennepin County 2010 SHAPE study.

I am most concerned about what I see as a possible epidemic of HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) among gay men. Many of us have been trained to avoid HIV, and now that Truvada is available to prevent HIV transmission, gay men have relaxed and are not being as careful as they could be. Doctors are not inoculating gay men (except those under 25) with the vaccine to prevent transmission of HPV, and they are not providing pap smears for men of all ages; so that the combination of unrestrained oral sex and unprotected anal sex is making it possible for the HPV virus to lay hidden in unsuspecting gay men which is dangerous because several of the strains of HPV may result in throat and anal cancer later. Gay men should begin to ask for the vaccine and for pap smear. Similarly, syphilis rates are skyrocketing: Gay men need to take care in BOTH oral or anal sex to take precautions to prevent transmission.

We have thoroughly documented the health disparities for GLBT people in regard to alcohol. 45.85% of GLBTQ people report binge drinking in the last 30 days vs. 21.9% of the remainder of the population, and cigarettes: 29.9% of GLBT community use vs. 16.1% of the remainder of the population. We know that corporations have targeted our community, with the result that our uses of both are extremely high. But where is our inventory of drug abuse in our community? And how do we plan to respond to the use of prescription drugs, meth, and other substances in our community? People are suffering because of this, and we do not have a community-based plan to address this.

JT: Please express anything else you think is important that your book looks at.

WS: The book talks about so many issues, and includes so many Minnesota writers, that it is hard to sort them all out for you. Senator Scott Dibble writes the Foreword for the book; there is an extensive discussion of the organizations that carry on the battle for and against GLBT human rights; there is a comparison of Minnesota by Minnesota activist Beth Bibus and North Carolina in the battle about marriage amendments; there is a chapter about GLBT elected officials by Jane Laine, including profiles about Rep. Karen Clark and Rep. Susan Allen. There is an excellent chapter by Sam McClure of National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and formerly Minneapolis' Quorum Executive Director about workplace diversity. There is a discussion of GLBT educational support in K-12 and higher education by Michael Grewe at Augsburg.

There are two chapters about transgender issues by Minneapolis council aide Andrea Jenkins and **Minneapolitan Denise Burke;** a full chapter on Bisexual issues by Victor Raymond from Madison who often visits the Twin Cities; a chapter on Health issues by Sid Guthrie from Regions Hospital in St. Paul; the seniors chapter by University of Minnesota Dean Jean Quam and Professor K. Abel Knochel; the chapter about Homelessness by Stephanie Kimble; a chapter on GLBT governmental infrastructure by Professor Kristen Norman-Major at Hamline University in St. Paul ; and the excellent work on Criminal Justice issues by Dallas Drake from the Minneapolis-based Center for Homicide Research.

JT: How can folks get your book when it's published ?

WS: Go online to www.CRCPress.com in September or preorder on Amazon.com now; it's called *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Civil Rights: A Public Policy Agenda for Uniting a Divided America* by Wallace Swan *(Sep 25, 2014)*. ■

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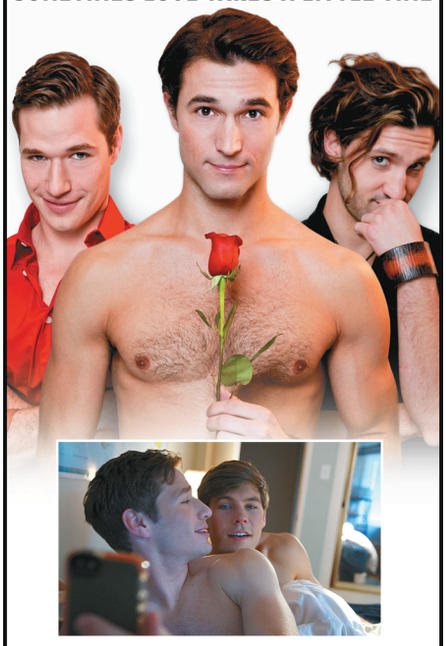
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FREE BEFORE STONEWALL MINNESOTA'S FIRST GAY ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO PIVOTAL NEW YORK EVENT

By George Holdgrafer

FREE

Each year, our Twin Cities Pride Celebration is a dual commemoration of two monumental events: locally, the founding of FREE, Minnesota's first gay organization; and nationally, the Stonewall Riot, the pivotal event that catalyzed gay liberation in the United States and worldwide.

In the United States, the decade of the 1960s was a hotbed of political and social change: the antiwar movement protesting the Vietnam War; the black civil rights movement; the women's movement; and the American Indian movement.

For the gay community in the 1960s, pre-Harvey Milk San Francisco was a beehive of activity. In 1961, José Sarria was the first openly gay person in the nation to seek elected political

CONTINUED ON PAGE 180

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FREE

office; in 1965, he founded the still-flourishing International Court System, of which the local Imperial Court of Minnesota is a chapter. In 1967, the Society of Individual Rights (SIR) was organized. In 1968, Reverend Troy Perry established Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), which eventually grew into an international body that includes our local All God's Children MCC.

In Minnesota, by early 1969, the gay community consisted of what some have called the four B's, our only gathering places: bars, like the 19 Bar and the Gay 90's in Minneapolis, both still in operation today; bookstores, like sex purveyor Ferris Alexander's adult establishments; bathhouses, like the Hennepin Baths in the Lumber Exchange Building in Minneapolis; and bushes, like Bare Ass Beach on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.

In the spring of 1969, two courageous young gay activists, Koreen Phelps, 20, and Stephen Ihrig, 21, envisioned a brighter future for our local community. Not knowing how to make it happen, they contacted Leo Laurence of SIR in San Francisco, who became their mentor. On May 18, 1969, the two visionaries, under the auspices of the Free University, began by teaching a class called "The Homosexual and Society" at the Coffee House Extempore in the West Bank area of Minneapolis near the University of Minnesota. That's the real birthday of the gay movement in Minnesota. We're marking its 45th anniversary this year.

An article by S. Jane Albert that appeared on June 20, 1969, in *The Minnesota Daily*, the U of M newspaper, was headlined "Free U starts 'homosexual revolution.'" That headline says it all. This article is the first published account of gay liberation in Minnesota, at its birth.

Albert aptly began her article this way: "First

CONTINUED ON PAGE 182



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there was Black Power. Then Red Power. And now, through the efforts of two former University students, pink power has come to Minneapolis. Gay Power, as it is properly termed, is a homosexual movement that seeks to change the laws, attitudes and prejudices of uptight, upright heterosexual America."

Couldn't be put better today!

By midsummer, the Free University class developed into an actual organization—our first—christened Fight Repression of Erotic Expression (FREE—such a marvelous acronym!). It's the forerunner of all past and present successors in Minnesota. On its website, the Queer Student Cultural Center (QSCC) at the University of Minnesota traces its direct ancestry to FREE.

Meanwhile, six weeks after Phelps and Ihrig's class started meeting, and seven days after Albert's article was printed, New York finally caught up to San Francisco and the Twin Cities. The Stonewall Riot in Greenwich Village began on the night of June 27, 1969, as a protest against the latest in a series of police raids on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar.

Ironically, although San Francisco had been the preeminent center of gay activism for years, the Stonewall Riot in New York City soon became *the* catalyst for gay liberation everywhere, the event that has been celebrated ever since as the beginning of it all. The first Gay Pride Celebration on June 28, 1970, in New York City, exactly a year after Stonewall, spread to similar Pride observances in other cities, including Minneapolis-St. Paul in 1972.

Minnesota can be enormously proud that our own gay liberation movement, influenced by San Francisco and *not* New York, got under way six weeks before Stonewall. Unfortunately, a common misconception has it the other way around: that Stonewall sired FREE. But we know better! ■

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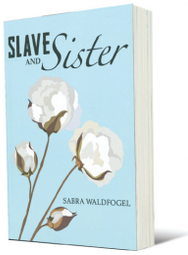
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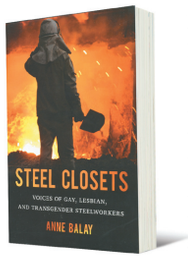
By E.B. Boatner

Sister and Slave
Sabra Waldfogel
$14.99



Two faces seen in a mirror: a black slave and her white mistress. Their eyes, their cheekbones, reflect a disturbingly similar cast. Disturbing for the times, antebellum Georgia, and for the reason: Adelaide Manheim and her slave Rachel share the same father. Later, as war clouds gather, Adelaide, newly married, finds her husband and Rachel have fallen in love. What could have been a tawdry tale of forbidden romance becomes, in the hands of local author Sabra Waldfogel, a complex story of survival and the emergence of true love and heroism. Waldfogel has an eye for character and the historical training to ground her story in the milieu of the 1850s and '60s. A veritable page-turner that will capture the reader from start to finish.

Steel Closets: Voices of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Steelworkers
Anne Balay
UNC Press
$34.95



Anne Balay used as sources forty gay, lesbian, and transgender steel workers mostly in and around Gary, Indiana. Steel working conditions have changed little in the past century. It's dirty, dangerous work, life expectancy is short, and GLBT workers face additional harassment and violence if they're outed or suspected. Macho behavior is the norm, and the mills are dominated by white, straight, cisgender males. Homophobia and violence are still rampant, but these interviewees, many of whom have no work or educational skills for the "outside" world, pride themselves that, even when harassed, they persevere and get the job done. Lesbian author Anne Balay found that her own history of work as a car mechanic worked in her favor. An eye-opening read; you won't forget these interviews.

Mistress Ginger Cooks! – Everyday Vegan Food for Everyone
Mistress Ginger
Book Publishing Company
$24.95



Vegan showgirl supreme is here! From checkered past to checkered tablecloths, Mistress Ginger takes control of the kitchen and invites her acolytes (the readers) to join in the fun. Vegan since 2002, Mistress Ginger, a.k.a. Justin Leaf, is a Twin Cities performance artist, Julliard School graduate, member of the James Sewell Ballet and Minnesota Dance Theatre, and cabaret circuit performer blessed with green eyes to die for. Close your eyes and submit to visions of dishes with monikers like "French-kissed Toast," "Pop My Cherry Scones," "Brazen Butternut Bisque," "In-the-Buff Beans and Greens," and "Cheeky Spread," liberally illustrated not only with the vittles, but with Mistress Ginger and her posse of hotties, you'll be ready and eager to party hearty and eat healthy. Come. Mistress summons…

Queerly Beloved: A Love Story Across Genders
Diane and Jacob Anderson-Minshall
Bold Stroke Books
$16.95



After fifteen years together as an activist, lesbian couple–Diane and Suzy Anderson-Minshall–Diane's wife announced, "I think I'm really a man." Eight years after that statement, the two have written a joint exploration of how their relationship survived this sea change. Jacob-née-Suzy explains, "We chose a style of writing called creative non-fiction," that allowed the use of elisions, dialogue reconstructions, and a method, like the calculus, of approaching in increasing increments, the truth. Alternating sections, Jacob writes of his transition, and Diane of her heroic efforts to assist and adjust. Both still work in the GLBT media, not all members of which have been forgiving to a lesbian married to a man. A remarkable journey of love and self-realization, a reminder of our connectedness.



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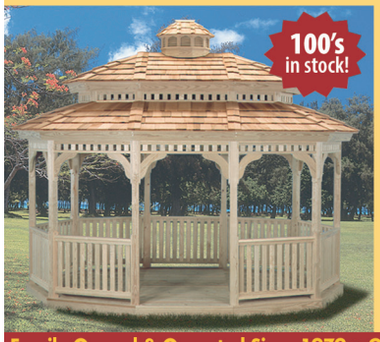
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DEMYSTIFYING AUTO GLASS REPAIR

By Randy Stern



Photos by Randy Stern

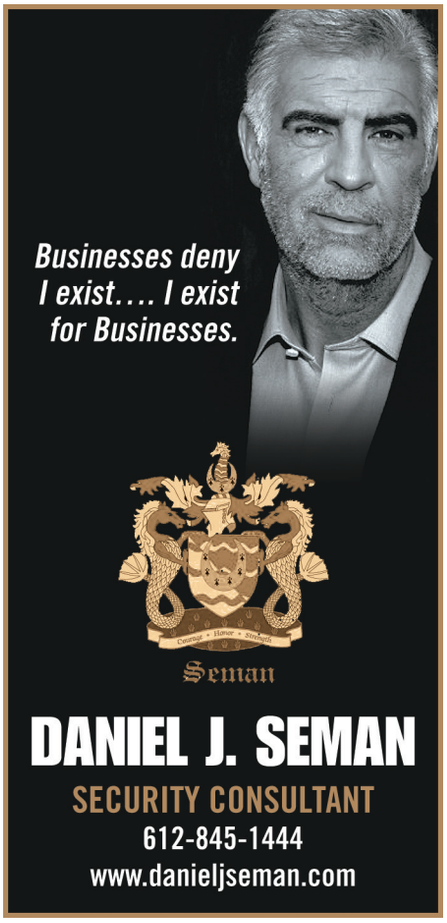
It is not often we think of dealing with windshield damage.

When we do, it becomes a huge affair between reporting to your insurance company, determining fault and who gets to pay what, and the fix itself. Once the claim is in motion, we find ourselves taking the whole process for granted to the point of paying for the entire replacement of the windshield.

To find out the truth about auto glass repair, Brad White of Novus Glass in Shakopee spoke to us about some of the facts of the business. What we found out was a lot more than just replacing a windshield.

Most likely, you would encounter a projectile hitting your windshield. It would leave a chip in the glass. Some chips are repairable, according to White. To repair the minor damage, White explains that the hole is cleaned before it is injected with a resin. Air is removed from the hole before a pit resin is injected to finish

CONTINUED ON PAGE 188









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up the fill. A UV lamp is applied over the repair to induce UV rays to cure the resin. The repair procedure takes 15 to 45 minutes from start to finish. White said that you might still see the repair and if you want it to go away completely its always best to just replace the windshield.

What if that chip is not repaired? "Unresolved glass damage could be the start of a crack that goes across the windshield," according to White. A glass replacement is in order. If contracted, White would be able to get a new windshield in the vehicle. The job takes about three hours if done on site, as it involves the removal and application of the new glass, along with the time needed for the urethane to cure long enough to drive the vehicle safely. Any poorly installed windshield or large glass damage is a potential threat to the vehicle's strength when involved in an accident.

One thing to keep in mind that the windshields are made with laminated glass. Laminated glass is a type of safety glass that holds together when shattered. In the event of breaking, it is held in place by an inter-layer, typically of polyvinyl butyral (PVB), between its two or more layers of glass. The inter-layer keeps the layers of glass bonded even when broken, and its high strength prevents the glass from breaking up into large, sharp pieces. This produces a characteristic "spider web" cracking pattern when the impact is not enough to completely pierce the glass.

Laminated glass is normally used when there is a possibility of human impact or where the glass could fall if shattered. Skylight glazing and automobile windshields typically use laminated glass. In geographical areas requiring hurricane-resistant construction, laminated glass is often used in exterior storefronts, curtain walls, and windows. The PVB inter-layer also gives the glass a much higher sound insulation rating, due to the damping effect, and also blocks 99% of incoming UV radiation.

The windshield is not the only piece of glass we have to contend with in terms of damage. We often deal with shattered door glass or rear windows. These pieces are typically tempered glass and have a tendency to shatter in many pieces, unlike laminated windshields. Some of these pieces of glass are easily replaced, but as White states, there is sometimes "a lot more involved (in replacing side glass) with today's vehicles." Today's automobiles have a plethora of electronics installed in the doors and rear glass area that sometimes need to be disconnected before removing and replacing the glass.

As for the quality of the replacement glass used on your vehicle, White states that glass equivalent to original manufacturer's specification is required for all insurance claims. He only uses that specification for all of his replacements.

How much does repairing or replacing auto glass cost? A windshield repair would cost between $60 to $80. Windshield replacement can run anywhere from $250 to $1500 depending on the vehicle. In Minnesota, insured motorists who carry full coverage have a zero deductible on glass repairs and replacements; however, check your policy before making any claim on glass damage.

Before you make any claim, understand that insurance companies already have a tie-in with specific networks of auto glass companies. If you want to designate a certain company to do the work, it is suggested to contact your preferred glass repair and replacement service provider first before you make a claim.

There are many things to consider whenever you are presented with damage to your vehicle. It is essential to take care of the glass of your vehicle as it pertains to overall structural integrity. Perhaps this primer on auto glass repair may help the next time when hail, a potential thief, or a pebble from the truck in front of you hits your vehicle's glass.

For more information about Novus Glass in Shakopee, go to www.novusglass.com. ■



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CADILLAC CTS

By Randy Stern









Photos by Randy Stern

It seems that everyone is talking about the newest Cadillac CTS lately.

The mid-sized luxury sedan has already garnered its share of accolades, including *Motor Trend*'s Car of The Year. Sales of the new CTS sedan are up steadily in response to the new model. The best indicator that the CTS is a winner is how people simply stop and stare at it. When you pass by them in one, they will give you the thumbs-up of approval.

The 2014 CTS sedan is certainly hitting its stride. This is the third generation of a car that began the renaissance of Cadillac. A year ago, the new CTS debuted at the New York Auto Show to a chorus of "oohs" and "ahhs," thanks mainly to its daring design. After a brief collective groan that a V version would not immediately be available in the new sedan, the chorus was whipped into a frenzy upon the promise of something potent.

The CTS Vsport was that promised vehicle. Instead of a V8—supercharged or otherwise—the Vsport sports a 420 horsepower twin-turbocharged V6. That still sounds great, but has this performance version delivered on those promises?

The third generation CTS signals a new twist on Cadillac's Art&Science design language. While some of the brand's traditional tenets remain, the CTS offers some of the most compelling, if not polarizing, lines seen on any car. The point of the CTS is to ensure its unique styling can play against its rivals, namely the BMW 5-Series, Mercedes-Benz E-Class, and Audi A6. No one can ignore the CTS from its creased and sculpted front end, its distinctive silhouette, and the subtle tail-fin rear end. The big grille adorned with the Crest-and-Wreath badge up front greets you with a series of unique lighting featuring vertical LED strips and projector beams.

To distinguish the twin-turbocharged V6 model from the rest of the CTS lineup, the grille gets a different texture inside the slots and aggressive nineteen-inch alloy wheels. You could also see some of the Vsport's upgrades up close, including the Brembo brake caliper covers.

Cadillac's new interior philosophy is now evident in the CTS sedan. The primary focus of the cabin is the big CUE (Cadillac User Experience) TFT screen right in the middle of the instrument panel. The CUE interface has improved over time, since it only requires a slight hand movement to work some of the controls. Through CUE, you have control of the navigation, radio options—including SiriusXM and HD Radio—Bluetooth connected devices, and the climate control. The rest of the center stack works the same way for audio and climate controls.

Instrumentation is straightforward, including a switchable screen in the bottom of the display for trip and vehicle functions. There are more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 192

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controls on the steering wheel and stalks, giving more options to enjoy your drive. You will appreciate the improved finish and quality of the instrument panel compared to Cadillacs in the recent past.

The Vsport comes with sports-style seats with power adjustments for rake, height, and lumbar support. They are comfortable, but on the taut side. There is some bolstering to keep you in your seat behind the wheel. Rear seat room is quite good for adults, but a huge center transmission tunnel suggests seating for two people in the back instead of three. You may also appreciate the tester's color scheme with the seats and other contrasting points inside upholstered in Twilight Blue leather. The color scheme was indeed tastefully done.

What makes the CTS Vsport worth the drive? It starts with the aforementioned 3.6 liter twin-turbocharged V6 engine. The power and turbo response was immediate; you can feel and hear the fury of 420 horsepower waiting to lunge at anything in its path. A new eight-speed automatic transmission is attached to this engine, sending power to the rear wheels. Perhaps the best part of the Vsport package is the exhaust note, a mix of muscle car rumble and exotic car brio. The CTS will quiet down at cruising speed, thanks to superior sound deadening.

The Vsport also offers a choice of four driving modes. In Tour, the ride is smooth with a hint of roll and lean in the corners. Steering feel is best described as nice with good response and a good turning radius. Switch it into Sport mode, and then feel the difference. Normally, things would get real taut, favoring better handling over a smooth ride. Not so in the Vsport, as the ride is still compliant and smooth, while cornering is improved to near flat in the curves. Steering feel is heavier, but still easy to turn. If you dare, put the CTS into Track mode. That is where you will find the suspension real firm, the handling very flat through the corners, and the steering wheel feel at its heaviest. My preference would be to keep it in Sport for everyday driving. That is where the Vsport is happiest.

Brembo supplies the braking power to the Vsport. Stopping is very good in both normal and panic situations. Our tester had Bridgestone Blizzak tires, one of the best winter "shoes" in the business. Normally, you get eighteen-inch summer run-flat tires with the option of all-season rubber on the Vsport. It also comes with a suite of active safety features, including lane departure warning, collision alert, and blind spot monitoring. If you find yourself out of a lane or close to a collision, the driver's seat will alert you via vibration. Some will complain about the Safety Alert Seat, but it is very effective compared to other forms of driver awareness through these active safety features.

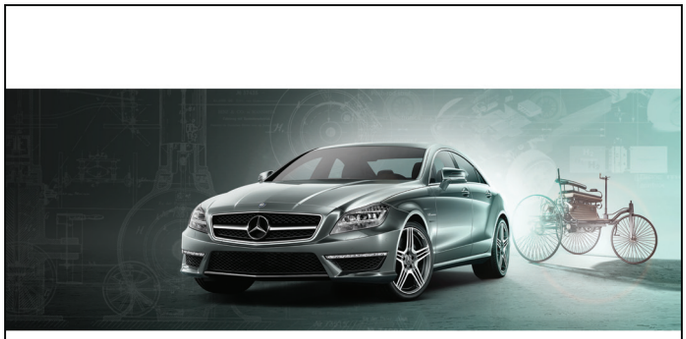
With 420 horsepower at your command, one does not expect great fuel economy to come with it. The CTS Vsport averaged 21.9 MPG, better than the average of 18 MPG Cadillac advertises for this model.

The CTS sedan comes in four trim levels with a choice of a turbocharged four-cylinder or a V6. A basic model with the four-cylinder turbo starts at $46,025. Our Vsport example came with a sticker price of $59,995. There is also a trim upgrade available on the Vsport, as well.

If you really must have more horsepower, you can still get a 2014 CTS-V in the outgoing generation's sedan, coupe, and wagon, all starting with a price of $65,825. You do get 556 horsepower out of a big supercharged V8.

Though the Vsport represents what is achievable in the new CTS sedan, it is a very strong competitor in the mid-sized luxury sedan field. It is up against some established cars, but it seems that Cadillac may have found a way to match up against its German, British, Japanese, and Korean rivals.

Above all, this is the best Cadillac made in decades. That is an achievement worth talking about. ■



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Burgess in the spring. Inset: Noelle (left) and Heather. Photos by Tracy LeCapitaine

MODERN PRIDE

By Lisa Antenucci

After living in their 1 1/2 story home in the Como Park area of St. Paul for eight years, Heather Jennings and Noelle Stoyles decided to find a home that better fit their needs. Although they loved the location (especially the 3/4 mile commute to work for Noelle) and the number of bedrooms/bathrooms they had, they felt that, overall, the rooms were very compartmentalized and often left them feeling segregated from each other, especially when entertaining guests. The couple searched the Twin Cities for their perfect home and fell in love with a few houses in St. Paul's University Grove neighborhood. They made offers on the homes which all fell through. In hindsight, Heather and Noelle are glad that happened, "We are obviously happy now that they did fall through because we really feel lucky to get to live in our space." The couple eventually found a generously sized 3/4 acre lot in their beloved Como Park neighborhood and started the collaboration with Shelter Architecture to design and build their affordable modern dream home that would later be dubbed "Burgess." As the design progressed, the builder, GreenLight (formerly Palladian), joined the team to work through price estimates and mock up exterior cladding options.

From the beginning, Heather and Noelle both had a good idea of their "must-haves" and "wish list" items for their new home along with their overall minimalist design aesthetic. They were both very attracted to the effi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 196



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ciently designed 5ive House, designed by Shelter, with the use of it's simple materials and minimalist forms.

"It wasn't an extravagant home; it was efficient," says Heather. Although the couple both grew up in the outskirts in Iowa, one in an 1886 farmhouse and the other in the traditional two-story home in the "big town" nearby, they both found that they liked clean lines and a minimalist approach to the space they inhabited. "As a couple, we are really drawn to the same things when it comes to style and design, which really helps when going through the building process," stated Heather.

After scouring over house plans of the homes they had put offers on, thumbing and ripping out pages from magazines and cruising through websites and blogs, Heather and Noelle prioritized some of their must-haves into a list that included concrete floors, sleek commercial aluminum windows, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, flat roofs, a workout room, and, above all, an open floor plan to remedy the segregation they often felt in their current home. They worked with Shelter to integrate their ideas into their "forever dream home," so much so that their main level is completely accessible and designed for one-story living for the couple to grow old together and still be



Photo by Tracy LeCapitaine

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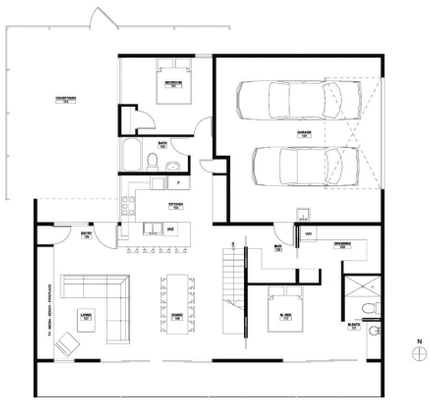
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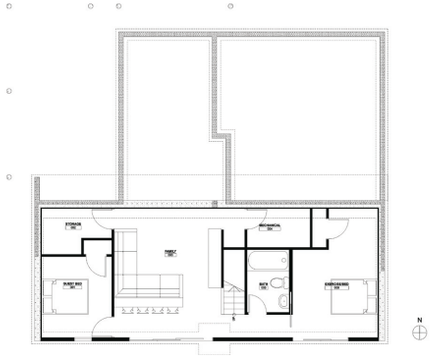
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Bright spaces, clean lines. Photos by Tracy LeCapitaine

able to live in their house.

"We founded our firm on the notion of sustainability; that idea quickly transferred into the notion that if a home isn't accessible, it isn't really sustainable," says Shelter Architecture's Founding Partner Jackie Millea. "When building from the ground up, you have an opportunity to design for any circumstance that might happen to a family member, including a temporary or permanent disability, with the idea that a home can accommodate all stages of life including aging in place. We work very hard to create one-floor living opportunities when possible. This included creating a guest suite on the main level that could accommodate aging guests who come to visit."

"During the conception of the home, we wanted to see if there was any meaning in creating a home for two women to share, basically a woman-centric home. Initially, the 'work areas' of the home were analyzed—kitchen, bathrooms, laundry area—and these spaces became very tailored to the way that Heather and Noelle intended to live in their new home," explained Millea. "When designing the bedroom suite, we initially had a larger sink/vanity area, but as we discovered they had very different morning routines allowing us to simplify this area." Heather confirmed this assessment, "Our master bath didn't need to occupy us both at the same time, usually. Plus, I am pretty quick to get ready while Noelle takes a little longer." (Insert head nodding from friends.)

When Shelter studied how the couple lived and used their old house, they learned that Heather works from home and is usually found in front of a computer or whipping up some delicacy in the kitchen. In their old house, that meant she was often in the back office tucked away from the main living areas. In Burgess, the office was situated right smack dab in the kitchen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 200



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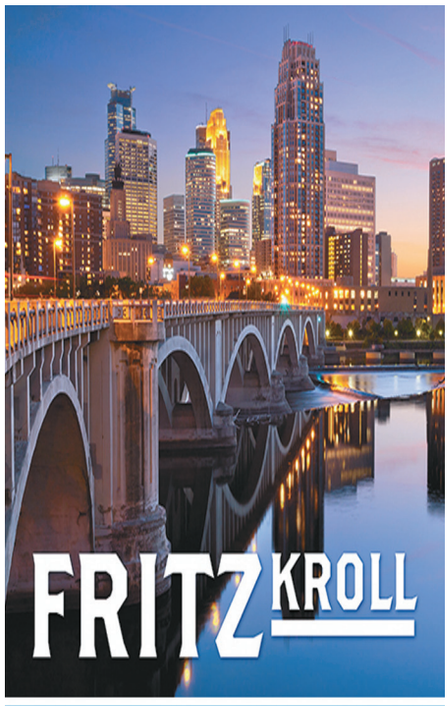
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which is connected to the main living area.

Along with the kitchen/office opening up to the main living room, the south wall is comprised of floor-to-ceiling windows highlighting their gorgeous views and connecting them to nature or, as they describe, "It's like we're living in a tree house all of the time." A dramatic change from their previous home where they were closed off from each other.

"Another aspect that drove our design was the entertaining space. We have amassed a very tight group of friends since moving to the Twin Cities in 1999, and like to entertain a lot." Millea says Shelter responded accordingly, "The main level living area can quickly a become a dance floor with a lovely heated floor for dancing barefoot! The lower level living area has enough comfy seating for everyone, becoming a great place to watch the game."

When designing their lower level, it was very important to them to not have their basement feel like, well, a basement! Large windows and high ceilings along with the overall layout make this space feel as open and airy as the main level. A workout room was a high priority for the couple especially for the avid runner of the family, Noelle. High ceilings not only assisted in creating the open airy feeling of the lower level but they were also a matter of necessity as Heather reaches about 6ft. and the extra head room is needed when she works out on the treadmill. Along with the guest room and workout room the couple have a room in their lower level referred to as "The Baseball Card Room." A room devoted solely to a baseball card collection may seem extravagant but technically the room is the couple's fourth bedroom and is used as a guest room, along with a place to store Heather's baseball cards and comic book collections.

There are countless things to consider when designing a new home. In the case of Burgess, efficient and thoughtful storage was a high priority as was using modern materials. However, looks alone did not dictate the final material selection; selections also needed to deliver low-maintenance and clean-ability. Millea points out that they also considered areas to relax and rejuvenate. For Noelle, that space is her gym. The gym takes advantage of the outdoor space with views and a large sliding door. The final result was the perfect home for how Heather and Noelle live. Modern, efficient, gracious, and inviting. ■

Lisa Antenucci is an award-winning dynamo at Shelter; an innovative, creative, yet accessible design studio specializing in the architecture and interior design of sustainable homes and unique commercial spaces. See her work at shelterarchitecture.com.

For more information about GreenLight Builders, go to www.greenlightmn.com.

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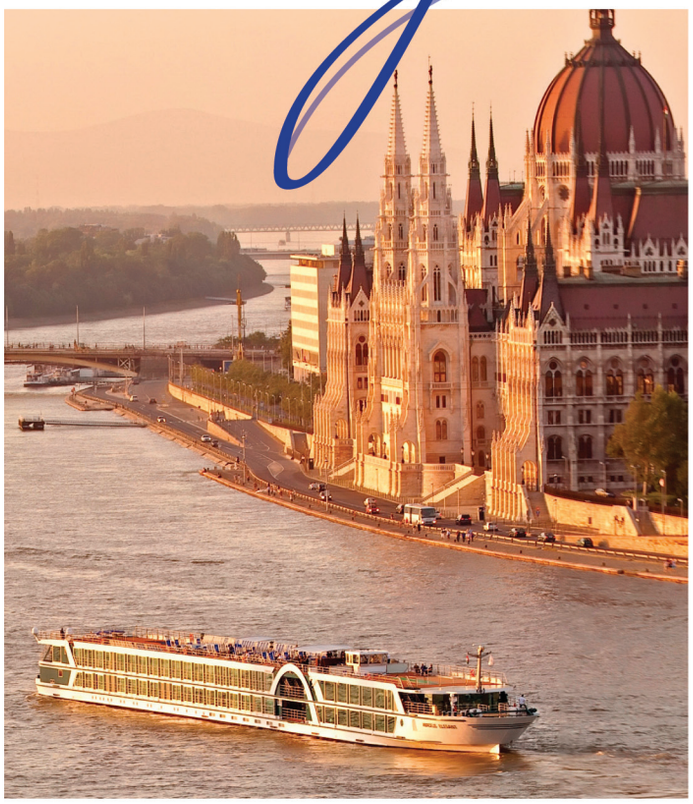


Open areas for entertaining, with access to the outdoors.
Photos by Tracy LeCapitaine

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Skirting the Issues: Bittersweet

By Ellen Krug

Last month included a college graduation weekend—something that I often wondered would ever come. Lily, the younger of two daughters. Intentionally and stubbornly an under-achiever in high school. Thirtieth from the bottom of her 483-strong student class. Couldn't be forced to study even if world peace depended on it.

And now, a college graduate with a 3.3 GPA.

In a word, it was *Sweet!*

Way to go, Lily, rocking me and everyone else who knows you!

Other than celebrating Lily's accomplishment, the weekend meant something else: being in the presence of my ex-wife. As I've written before, Lydia and I started out as high school sweethearts-turned-soul mates. We went from small city Iowa to Boston for my law school and our first jobs and then back to small city Iowa. We bought an old house and turned it into heaven on earth. Two daughters and a very successful trial law practice later, we had everything that anyone could ever dream of.

Except for one thing. We didn't have *me,* the real me, a woman.

When that woman could no longer hide below the surface, when she needed to breathe fresh air, everything ended. Sadly. Some would say horribly.

We're talking many emotional casualties, some mortally wounded by my transitioning from man to woman.

Only, there's one thing that didn't end: my love for Lydia. That torch never went out.

Thus on the evening following Lily's graduation, I found myself sitting across from Lydia at a nice restaurant in the company of others, watching, staring, listening, missing, remembering, hurting. She had flown in from her new hometown and was as beautiful as ever. As always, Lydia was witty, engaging, and smartass. Just like the old days, everyone wanted to hang with her. It was a privilege I had taken for granted for so many years before.

In another word, it was *Bittersweet.*

At least on the surface, Lydia is long past our divorce. She's pleasant to me, even cheerful. I'm sure it helps that she remarried to a hunk of a man who's entirely devoid of gender identity issues.

I'm happy for her. Back at our wedding in 1982—by then I'd been secretly dressing in women's clothes on and off for fifteen years—she certainly didn't intend to marry someone with gender problems. No, she wanted me as a dude for a spouse, and planned for it to stay that way until death did us part.

Perfectly understandable.

For the longest time, I had thought that I could actually choose—that I could consciously pick to be a man, a master of my masculine universe, and ignore the voice in my head that kept shouting, "You need to have your own life as the real you! As the woman you are!"

Seventeen years of therapy and eight therapists later, I now understand that I was pretty naïve.

Gender—just like sexuality—isn't something that we "choose." They're teaching that now in hundreds of high schools in America.

Yet, accepting those realities doesn't temper another reality: love.

By the time my gender identity issues surfaced for good, Lydia and I had been together for more than three decades—thirty-two years to be exact.

"How can you leave me?" she'd ask over and over as we struggled to figure out things. "I love you," she would whisper in a cracking voice, her head on my shoulder with bundled tissues in hand.

"I love you back," I'd say. "With all my heart."

It was absolutely true. The issue wasn't about me not loving Lydia.

Instead, it was about me loving me. I needed to love the real me and accept that unless I let Ellie Krug breathe, someday I might force my body to not breathe at all.

How do you leave the love of your life—the soul mate of soul mates—knowing that you'll likely be alone for the rest of your life?

My answer: I don't know. On many days, I can't believe I had the guts to walk out the front door of heaven on earth for the last time, leaving Lydia sobbing in the doorway.

All of that was ten years ago. In the time since, I've been able to soar as a woman, discarding sharp edge testosterone for estrogen's wonderful life-giving softness. I'm an incredibly better person as a woman than I ever was as a man. I continue to amaze myself over how one decision—to be true to myself—ripples in so many positive ways.

And yet, I miss Lydia every day.

Hence the trade-off between love of another and love of self.

The hole in my heart—once the size of planet Mars—has certainly grown smaller as I put distance and time between Lydia and me. I suspect it will never close entirely.

As we head toward this year's Pride, let Debbie Downer, err Ellie Krug, share this bit of hard-earned wisdom: this thing we call "life," isn't a thing at all. It's a collection of lives, identities and emotions. Just as we can't choose who we are, we can't choose whom we'll love or the moments that will matter.

It all just happens.

Be mindful of the moments. They don't last.

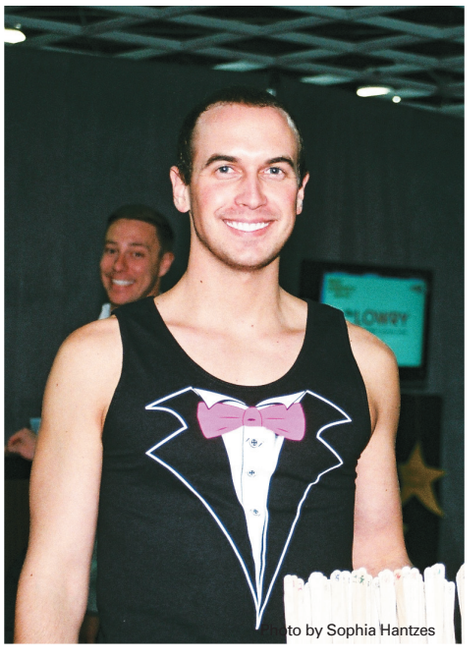
Happy Pride 2014! ■

Ellie Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com



Photos By Sophia Hantzes







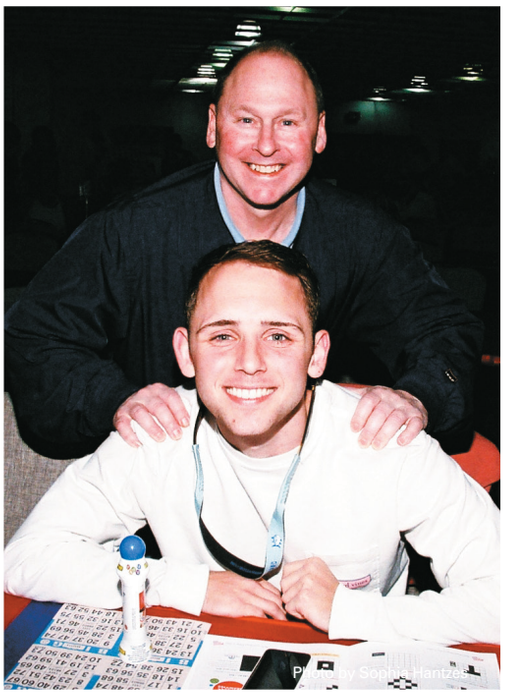






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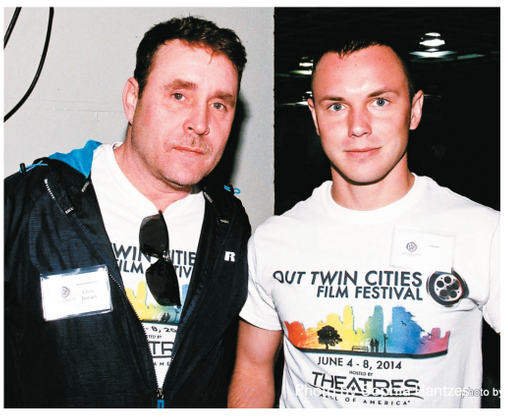












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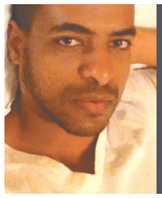
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Dateland:
What Happens in Vegas (better happen before 9 p.m.) Part 1

By Jennifer Parello

I'm writing this from Las Vegas. Sin City! But the biggest sin I've managed thus far is to wear the wrong shoes on a walk down The Strip and, as a result, I'm now nursing two badly blistered feet.

I've spent the afternoon poolside with one of my closest friends, Ingrid, who has been moodily sipping frozen cocktails and complaining about her sciatica.

So, here we are, in a city built for trouble, wasting our day in lounge chairs and floral-print cover-ups, passing casual judgment on the 20-somethings parading around in pieces of string masquerading as swimwear.

Ingrid nosily slurps the last crystals of her repulsively fruity drink and shakes the empty glass at me in a commanding motion. "Go to the bar and get me another," she demands. "I can't get up. My hip hurts."

I suppose it was inevitable that our conversation would devolve into a discussion about failing hips. Yet, just the mention of that physical harbinger of old age—the aching hip!—set me off on a tear.

"What's happened to us? Remember when we used to be hip? How did we go from that into worrying about breaking a hip? Are we that old?" I asked.

Ingrid glanced at the kids around us. "Yes," she said.

"We're only old-ish!" I exclaimed. "We're in Las Vegas! Let's get into some trouble."

"But I already have," she whined. "As I just mentioned, I did something last night that hurt my hip. I told you we shouldn't have sat on those folding chairs at the magic show. We should have splurged and upgraded to cushions."

"We've been in bed every night by 10. Tonight, we're going to a nightclub!" I exclaimed.

"I don't like the sound of that," Ingrid said. "It implies that we will required to be dressed in something other than jammies after dinner. Besides, I got us tickets to 'Menopause: The Musical.'"

"That might be the most depressing sentence you've ever uttered," I said, manically paging through the local gay paper, looking for a magical venue that might return us to our glorious youth.

"Aha! This place looks perfect!" I said, slapping an ad for a club a short walk from our hotel. The ad featured a kittenish woman wearing animal prints and twisting her body in a manner that suggested she still had functioning hips.

Ingrid grabbed the paper from me and squinted at it in horror. "The place doesn't even open until 9 p.m.! And it has a dress code! Are you insane?"

I glanced at Ingrid and for a moment I saw her as I first met her—a lusty 24-year-old who didn't consider a weekend a success unless she made at least a dozen terrible life choices. In those days, we wouldn't even consider arriving at a club until midnight. Now, 25 years later, she scoffed at the idea of going to a bar that required you to wear something other than orthopedic shoes.

I grabbed her hand and yanked her from the lounger. "Let's go shopping!" I exclaimed. "We'll get something sparkly to wear and plenty of aspirin. We're not too old to make mistakes. You know the saying: 'What happens in Vegas…'"

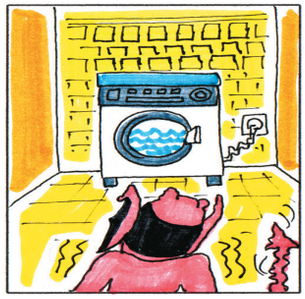
She reluctantly lumbered to her feet, making sure I noticed how the effort was taxing her fragile hips. "In our case, the saying goes 'What happens in Vegas had better happen before a reasonable bedtime and in sensible footwear or it's not going to happen at all.'" ■

(Stay tuned for the exciting conclusion! In Part 2, Ingrid and I go to a club, get into a melee with a gaggle of youngsters, kiss inappropriately, and manage not to break a hip.)

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA POR RODRO



Bye, baby! Love you!
Au revoir, chéri. Je t'embrasse!





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... but the spin cycle... sucks!
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Through These Eyes: Out of Office – Pride Edition

By Justin Jones

To Whoever Emailed Me:
Hello. Thanks for your message. I am out-of-office Friday, June 27, through Monday, June 30, returning to my desk Tuesday, July 1. I may or may not respond to you. See below. If your name rhymes with Gryan Rosling, call me. Immediately.

Column Idea Givers: Awesome! Thank you, mister, ma'am, or non-gender-specific noun. I'll check it out and return your message pronto.

Critics: I was on a tight deadline.

Comcast: Get over it. I'm not into you anymore.

MPR: I am a sustaining member. I love state park passes, but I cannot contribute any more at this time.

Supermarket News: How did I end up on this mailing list?

Any Email Address that includes the words DO NOT REPLY: This is a very one-sided relationship and I feel uncomfortable with your dominance. I am slightly alarmed.

Apple: Can't you just click "Accept" for me? I don't read your terms of service and I don't care that you have a Rumpelstiltskin clause.

2013 Summer Fling: I'm still single. I mean, if you're available.

Andy Lien, Editor, Lavender Magazine: I know it's late. I promise I'm finishing it this weekend…Next week…Eventually.

Wells Fargo: Didn't we just talk about this?

Tinder: You aren't helping. I'm still single. I want my $0.99 back.

People Sending Bills: Wrong Justin.

Prince of the People's Republic of Hapstan: Is your country even a thing? It sounds like something from Walgreens.

Secret Admirers: This is the first message from you since high school. Are you spam?

Aunt Barbara: Love you, too!

Neil deGrasse Tyson: OMFG. You emailed me back?! [30-second pause.] Sorry, I collapsed. Sooooooooo…. the universe.

Freshman Year Roommate: I've been in love with you since college.

The, *The* Ex: Sorry, guess my email filter is broken.

People Reading this Article: Hey, you tested it out!

Amazon: I know I'll save a billion dollars if I sign up for your credit card. Please go away…

Me: I got the email you sent yourself and will probably delete it!

Domino's: You're always bothering me! … Okay, I'll have the usual.

People Paying Me: Your copy is written, even if you haven't assigned it to me. Send payment.

All Charities: I feel judged. I feel very judged.

Twitter: You're annoying and I can't find out how to get rid of you.

UNC-Chapel Hill: I miss you. I really do. But I can't afford to send you any money. File complaints with Sarah McLachlan.

Men Over 6'0" with Nice Eyes and Smiles Who Are Intelligent, Funny, Courtship-y, Strong-Minded, Sweet, and Romantic: I do. And…

Everyone Else: All jokes aside, I love you. I love you not because you're friends or readers. I love you not because you thought to email me.

I love you because you are my family. I love you because you are my brothers, my sisters, and everything in between.

I know you without knowing you. I know that you pick your nose and are bad at eating spaghetti. I know you sing in your car and love cheesy music. I know that your heart breaks when someone you cherish passes you by and that you hope you're loved by the people who mean the most. I know that you don't want to feel alone and that you want to feel understood. I know that your proudest moments come from the moments when you are yourself. You make up the colors of our family—Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, and everything in between (*including you, straight people*).

I love you more than anything, because to me, you are everything.

Happy Pride.

- Justin ■

ThroughTheseEyes.JustinJones@gmail.com

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